



## Israel to consider U.N. role

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will discuss U.N. participation at the Middle East multilateral talks when he meets Secretary General Boutros Ghali Friday, an Israeli official source said Monday. "The government is willing to reconsider the U.N. role in the multilateral," the source said. The source said Dr. Ghali wants himself to appoint the U.N. representatives to the five committees of the multilateral: water, the environment, disarmament, refugees and economic development. Mr. Rabin is due to leave for New York in his way to meet President George Bush late Wednesday. On Monday he meets Mr. Bush. Mr. Rabin is also due to meet Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton on Aug. 14.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورنال تائمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الواي»

## Iraq drills for oil near Jordan border

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi engineers have started drilling an exploratory well in an oil field near the border with Syria and Jordan, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Monday. The agency said the Iraqi Drilling Company and the Northern Petroleum Company, "have taken the required arrangements to complete drilling and exploratory checks" in the Akas field. It said exploration in the field "could determine discoveries that could change the balance of oil reserves." Iraq already has proven reserves of more than 100 billion barrels, second only to Saudi Arabia. Since the end of the Gulf war, Iraq has been reporting new exploration and drilling in its rich oil fields, apparently to counter reports that its oil industry was paralysed by the U.N. embargo in force since August 1990. Iraq, once a major oil exporter, had most of its oil installations damaged by the U.S.-led coalition forces during the Gulf war. Many of its installations and refineries have been repaired since, but the embargo on oil exports remains in force.

Volume 17 Number 5070

AMMAN TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1992, SAHR 4, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## Aloni urges diaspora delegates in talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israeli Education Minister Shulamit Aloni proposed Monday that Palestinians from the diaspora take part in the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks, Al Quds Press reported. Ms. Aloni who heads the leftist Meretz bloc in the government of Yitzhak Rabin, called on Mr. Rabin to approve her proposal. But Mr. Rabin immediately rejected it saying "it might antagonise the extreme right in the Labour government." Ms. Aloni's appointment last month as education minister was bitterly opposed by far-right and ultra-religious parties.

## Saleh vows to protect democracy

SANAA (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh met top military officials Sunday and vowed the armed forces would fight any attempt to disrupt the country's march towards democracy, Radio Sanaa reported. It gave no details on what was discussed but the meeting followed a string of attacks against leading figures from the former Marxist South Yemen which merged with the North in 1990. "If the hostile forces are betting on tearing the national unity apart, then they should know that the armed forces will be a safety valve and will not allow any harm to our unity and democracy," the radio quoted Mr. Saleh as saying. He urged the armed forces to increase vigilance ahead of parliamentary elections in November in which more than 30 new political parties are taking part.

## Indonesia seeks new role for non-aligned

CAIRO (R) — Indonesia said on Sunday it wanted the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to shift priorities from political to pressing economic and human problems. But Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told a news conference his country opposed suggestions that the movement be merged with Group 77 — an economic alliance of Third World countries. "We believe that the Non-Aligned Movement like everybody else must adapt itself in a dynamic way... to the new political and economic realities in the world," he said.

## 16 executed in Iran, rebels say

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iranian government hanged 16 people in Hamedan in western Iran last Thursday, the main Iranian opposition group reported. "The noose around the necks of two victims tore apart as they were being hanged. But the Pasdaran (guards) shot them to death brutally, and secretly transferred the bodies of all the victims to Hamedan cemetery," said a Mujahadeen-e-Khalq statement. "It said these killings brought to 31 the number of people executed last week in Hamedan. The government announced on July 27 the execution of 15 people on the pretext of 'drug trafficking,' the Mujahadeen said.

## 2 Belfast car bombs injure 21 people

BELFAST (R) — Two car bombs ripped through central Belfast on Monday, injuring 21 people and causing extensive damage in the first attack of its kind for several months. Police said they received a 15-minute warning before the first bomb went off from a man claiming to represent the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is fighting to oust British from Northern Ireland.

## White House repudiates harsh anti-Clinton statement

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (R) — The White House on Monday repudiated a Bush campaign statement that called Democrat Bill Clinton a "sneaking" hypocrite and said the author of the statement, political director Mary Matalin, had apologized for it. "We will continue to run a good clean hard-hitting campaign. The president is determined to keep this campaign out of the sleaze business," White House spokeswoman Judy Smith told reporters in Florida, where Mr. Bush was campaigning.

# Lower House charges Hawamdeh, rejects motion against Rifai, Odeh

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday referred former Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Hawamdeh to trial for misuse of public funds in a multi-million highway construction contract, but turned down a motion to indict former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and former Finance Minister Hanna Odeh on the same charges.

The separate votes came after an eight-hour marathon session which started Monday evening during which over 30 deputies spoke in favour and against the House's Investigations Committee to refer all the three former ministers to trial.

While 54 deputies — the re-

quired majority — voted in favour of the committee's recommendation against Mr. Hawamdeh, the motions against Mr. Rifai and Mr. Odeh could secure only 48 and 51 respectively.

Eleven deputies voted not to send Mr. Hawamdeh to trial, while in the case of Mr. Rifai the negative vote was 17 and Mr. Odeh 13. Seven deputies abstained in the vote of Mr. Odeh while six abstained on both Mr. Rifai and Mr. Hawamdeh. Seven deputies were absent.

Mr. Hawamdeh's case will now be referred to a nine-member higher council which is chaired by the Upper House Speaker and includes five judges and three senators.

The 22-member Muslim

Brotherhood and the nine-member Democratic Bloc supported by independent Islamists led the campaign for indicting the three officials. Among those voting to indict the three officials were current and former ministers.

Arguments in the defence of the three officials concentrated on accusing the special investigations panel of selectivity in choosing this case for debate ahead of other cases which date back to earlier governments. Some deputies produced documents on this case in which the signatures of the whole cabinet of Mr. Rifai's failed decisions endorsing Mr. Hawamdeh's recommendation to award the contract to an Indian company which undertook

the JD35 million project in 1987. They questioned the selection of these three particular officials without charging or questioning the other ministers.

However, most of the speeches delivered in Monday's session concentrated on the need to weed out corruption and to investigate all cases and rejected accusations that they were motivated by personal vendettas and settling old accounts.

The vote was seen as a key test not only of the democratisation process in Jordan but also of many deputies who were elected on platforms which promised firm moves against corruption and

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Deputy Leith Shablat (left), head of the Lower House Investigations Committee, and Deputy Muhammad Abu Fares, rapporteur of the committee, consult each other during the Monday/Tuesday session of the House. Behind them is Deputy Fares Nabulsi (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

committee, consult each other during the Monday/Tuesday session of the House. Behind them is Deputy Fares Nabulsi (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

## Palestinian forced to raze home as settlers vow to continue to build

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian family of 14 was forced to demolish part of their home in Arab East Jerusalem because the occupation authorities said the building did not have the proper building permits.

Israeli settlers in the occupied territories meanwhile vowed to continue building new houses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip despite a government decision to freeze new construction.

Members of the group said they would raise funds privately to complete construction Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered to halt. They said they hoped the Jewish population in the occupied territories would continue to grow.

"We have no doubt we will be able to build by ourselves," settler leader Uri Ariel told Israel Television.

Ibrahim Mahmoud Atrash, 67, who demolished part of his house Sunday night rather than have the occupation authorities do it, said he was luckier than other Arabs. He reached an agreement to tear down only two of the five rooms in his house.

Mr. Atrash performed his sad chore as a lengthy dispute was coming to a head on whether the Palestinians of East Jerusalem can build — on their own property. The Jerusalem's Israeli mayor,

Teddy Kollek, said Monday the new government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin should finally agree to a zoning plan for East Jerusalem which would regulate where building can take place. "It don't want to sign another demolition order until this issue has been clarified with all the ministers," Mr. Kollek told Israel Radio.

Mr. Kollek's statement came as the municipal-council-faced touchy problems over demolition orders. Last week, it tore down two buildings, one a church, being built by the Greek Orthodox patriarchate on the Mount of Olives. A demolition order issued to a mosque in the Arab sector of Jabel Mukaber is the subject of a lawsuit.

Before reaching his agreement with the occupation authorities, Mr. Atrash went to court to try to prevent the demolition. He lost.

Now, lawyers for the Waqf, the Muslim trust that oversees the Holy City's mosques, are in court trying to overturn a demolition order signed by Mr. Kollek to destroy the Al Farouk Mosque on Jabel Mukaber.

Jamal Abu Tomah, a lawyer representing the Waqf, said the mosque is already completed and has been in use for nearly two months.

Adnan Hussein, the Waqf's director, was quoted in an Israeli

newspaper as saying the mosque was built without a permit because Israeli policies make it impossible to get one.

There is no such problem for Israeli settlers.

Some 120,000 Israelis live among 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories. Most moved there under a settlement policy set by the former Likud government.

Mr. Rabin's Labour government, which took office last month, cancelled new construction but permitted the completion of about 9,000 units already started.

Israeli Television said the settlers had launched a campaign to build privately and had sent emissaries to Jewish communities in the United States to raise funds. But it was not clear whether such private building was legal. Aliza Goren, an adviser to the minister of housing, said her office was going to check the legal aspects of the proposal.

Benjamin Netanyahu, formerly a spokesman for the Israeli delegation at Middle East peace talks and a contender for the Likud leadership, gave his support to the campaign.

"If these houses are completed Israelis will come here because these are fine houses," he said on a visit to a West Bank construction site.

## Syrian-Turkish tension eases with Damascus talks

DAMASCUS (AP) — Tension between Syria and Turkey has apparently eased as the two sides expressed satisfaction Monday over talks concerning Euphrates River rights and alleged support of Kurdish separatists fighting Turkey.

"Syrian and Turkish views were identical," Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said at a joint news conference with his Syrian counterpart, Farouk Al Sharaa, after two days of discussions in Damascus.

Mr. Cetin said that he felt Syria was determined "to develop and bolster bilateral relations."

He addressed the insurgency by the Kurdish Labour party (PKK) saying:

"Combat of terrorism is very important to us and we have discussed this matter with Syrian officials, who reiterated that they would honour their promise and all will do their best to help Turkey overcome terrorists."

Earlier this year, Syria closed a PKK training base in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley at Ankara's behest.

"Turkey is exerting every possible effort to realise peace in the region," Mr. Cetin said. "It will not adopt any stand unfavourable to the Syrian neighbour."

Mr. Sharaa also described the talks as positive and said Syria and Turkey had committed themselves to a 1987 agreement relevant to security and stability in the region.

He said this point was stressed by President Hafez Al Assad

when he received Mr. Cetin Sunday.

The two ministers said it was agreed that contacts between the two countries would continue and that Syrian Minister of Interior Mohammad Harba would visit Turkey soon.

It was also agreed that a committee would be set up to implement security pacts, meeting every three months.

Asked whether Turkey would honour the waters accord concluded in 1987, Mr. Cetin said there were 22 projects under construction on the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, but he evaded straight answer to the question, only saying:

"In view of good neighbourliness, fraternity and friendship, Turkey cannot adopt any stand against Syria."

But he added that the tripartite supreme technical committee grouping Turkey, Syria and Iraq will meet soon to discuss a possible increase in Syrian and Iraqi water shares.

Under the 1987 agreement, Syria receives 500 cubic metre per second.

Asked whether PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan was in Syria or in the Syrian controlled Bekaa Valley, Mr. Sharaa said:

"Syria is not the Interpol to pursue criminals. What is important is that there should be a genuine cooperation in safeguarding security, unity and safety of the two countries' territories."

## Israeli jets stage raids on Hizbollah positions

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli helicopters attacked bases of the Hizbollah resistance group in Monday's second strike in South Lebanon, security sources said.

The sources said four helicopter gunships fired eight missiles at Hizbollah bases in the villages of 'Ain Bouswar and Lowaizeh in Iqlim Al Toufah mountainous ridge, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

There was no immediate word on casualties.

The air strike was the second in a few hours on Iqlim Al Toufah.

Two Israeli planes fired 10 missiles at Hizbollah positions in the villages of Arab Salim and Tallet Mila earlier on Monday, wounding two people.

The Israeli airforce has launched five raids on Hizbollah targets in South Lebanon in as many days.

Israel frequently launches air strikes on resistance bases to retaliate against attacks on its troops who patrol a self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

It has launched 28 air raids into Lebanon this year, killing more than 40 people and wounding at least 98.

Sources said two Hizbollah guerrillas who infiltrated the "security zone" were killed in the morning near the village of Blait as they were setting a roadside bomb.

The sources said two jet fighters fired four rockets at 1:15 p.m. (1015 GMT) at Hizbollah bases facing the security zone.

They said the raiding jets fired heat balloons to deflect ground-to-air missiles. But police said none was fired and no hits were observed from anti-aircraft fire.

The Israeli military command said the "targets were hit and all air force planes returned safely to base."

Hizbollah guerrillas have launched a string of attacks on Israeli troops and their allies in the "security zone" since the killing of Hizbollah leader Sheikh Abbas Musawi in February.

Israel has responded mainly with air strikes.

New Prime Minister Rabin's government announced on Sunday that it would hold its first Middle East peace talks with the Arabs in Washington on Aug. 24.

Lebanon is one of the parties to the talks.

## Yeltsin orders warship to Gulf; Saddam chairs 'special meeting'

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Boris Yeltsin Monday ordered a warship to be ready to go to the Gulf if needed to join in a possible U.S.-led military action against Iraq, a Russian news agency reported.

The unconfirmed report by the Interfax news agency did not identify what kind of ship, the number of soldiers or weapons involved.

Mr. Yeltsin also has decided to send a ship to the coast of Yugoslavia to join a western naval monitoring operation underway there, as well as a third ship to the Romanian coast, the agency said, quoting Russian Defence Ministry sources.

If true, the report could signal a change in Russia's policy towards Iraq, which has been at odds with the United Nations since the Gulf war last year.

Russia officially supported the U.N. allies during the war, but refused to take part in armed

conflict against Iraq, a longtime ally of the former Soviet Union.

Russia's participation also would be a policy boost for President George Bush, who has sought maximum international participation in the conflict to avoid portraying it as solely a disagreement between Iraq and the United States.

In other Iraq-related developments:

— Iraqi President Saddam Hussein led a meeting of his cabinet as he dispatched the prime minister on an unspecified meeting to northern Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Monday.

INA said President Saddam chaired a four-hour "special meeting for the cabinet" Sunday night devoted to reviewing "efforts to escalate the status of progress in eroding the sanctions imposed by American imperialism."

The agency said Prime Minister

Mohammad Hamza Al Zubaidi was sent to the oil-rich province of Kirkuk in northern Iraq and was not present at the meeting.

It gave no indications why Mr. Zubaidi would have been dispatched to Kirkuk, where recent reports said the army is massing troops on the border of the Kurdish-controlled area beyond.

Mr. Zubaidi is a former governor of Kirkuk. During last year's short-lived Kurdish rebellion he was among a few Iraqi senior officials who supervised an army advance to retake the city from the Kurdish Peshmerga guerrillas who controlled it for a few days.

The council of ministers meeting came only four days after a cabinet shake-up in which were dropped, two ministers apparently for mismanagement.

INA said President Saddam instructed his ministers to improve

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## Merchant executions halt supplies to Iraq

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — Iraqi traders, terrorised by Baghdad's execution of 42 merchants, have halted almost all shipments of supplies to their country, Jordanian businessmen said Sunday.

Traffic in Jordan's Zarqa Duty Free Zone, source of a huge portion of the supplies of food and other humanitarian goods Iraq is allowed under U.N. sanctions, has almost come to a standstill.

Only a trickle of Iraq-bound trucks are leaving through the desert zone's iron-gates, compared to a daily average of 150, traders say.

"For the past 10 days, hardly any Iraqi trader sent anything to his country from our warehouse," said one Jordanian exporter, who until last week was sending up to 30 trucks of sugar and rice to Iraq each day.

"They (merchants) tell us even if the goods are given to them for free they are not ready to risk their lives and be executed or detained," he told Reuters. "This has dealt a deadly blow to our business and might lead to food shortages in Iraq."

Iraq, squeezed by almost two years of U.N. trade sanctions, is cracking down on merchants it accuses of profiteering.

It has executed 42 traders by firing squad and jailed or detained more than 500 since July 25 in moves ordered by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Baghdad-based diplomats said.

Several of those executed came from prominent families and the contents of their warehouses and businesses had

been confiscated by the state, the diplomats added.

They said Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials privately confirmed the numbers arrested and executed.

"The news has shattered, terrorised, demoralised and depressed all my Iraqi clients because accusations were not true," added another trader who works out of the Zarqa Duty Free Zone. "They feel they were victims of Saddam's whims."

The two Jordanian traders said they attended sessions of mourning held in Amman by the family of executed trader Ra'ad Tabra, a leading businessman, and for another businessman from the Malallah family because Iraq banned their relatives from publicly mourning the dead.

Many of their Iraqi customers had told them they were reluctant to return to Baghdad and some had even told family members there to flee for fear of reprisals, they added.

Many Iraqi merchants and their families had arrived in Amman to spend their summer vacation when the news broke out.

Iraq has been in the grip of a U.N. trade blockade since shortly after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraqi officials justify the toughest campaign against profiteers since the sanctions were imposed by saying it is essential to fee people at fair prices.

But Jordanian and some Iraqi merchants based in Amman contest this. "Saddam is looking for scapegoats because of the soaring prices in Iraq caused by the weak dinar and the sanctions," one Jordanian said.

## Blacks strike in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of black workers began a nationwide strike Monday to demand an end to white rule and police killed three black men in a clash with strikers.

Many workers in black townships ringing South Africa's cities stayed home as the opposition African National Congress (ANC) began the two-day strike to call for President F.W. de Klerk's removal.

Streets in Johannesburg and other cities were much quieter than usual, with just a handful of vehicles and pedestrians in many areas. Passenger levels on buses and trains serving black townships were running at 2 per cent of normal, transportation officials said.

But other blacks ignored the strike call, heading for work on a cold winter morning. Some said they opposed the strike or could not afford to lose wages.

Three black men were shot to death Monday by police and four police officers were wounded in a gun battle in the black township of Soweto outside Johannesburg, police said. One officer was in serious condition, police said.

Shooting erupted after some 50 blacks, apparently enforcing the strike, stoned vehicles, police said. Police said they found an assault rifle after the crowd dispersed.

State-run television said Monday militants were erecting barricades and using threats to enforce the strike. Roads and trains were blocked with burning car tyres in parts of Cape Town and Durban and a man was burned to death outside Durban, it said.

At least 17 people died in political violence Sunday and

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## Iraq dinar trade booms in Gulf

MANAMA (R) — Trade in the Iraqi dinar is booming in the Gulf as speculators cash in on dramatic fluctuations in the currency's value fuelled by recurring threats of military action against Iraq, moneychangers in the region say.

Moneychangers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said they were buying up to 25 million Iraqi dinars (\$1.6 million at local market rates) a day from exchange houses in Jordan and selling them to dealers in Kuwait, their main source of demand.

Kuwait moneychangers confirmed business in the currency was booming and estimated the daily volume of Iraqi dinars traded in the northern Gulf emirate at between 10 and 40 million (\$642,000 to \$2.6 million).

Most of the demand appeared to come from Iraqi residents preparing to leave the country or Kuwaitis sending money to relatives in Iraq. But a large portion could be attributed to Kuwaitis speculating in the volatile currency, they said.

"For the time being the Iraqi dinar is the best currency for us in the exchange market — it goes up and down too much, you can make a good profit," Alaa Ali Al Sarraf, general manager of the cooperation exchange company, told Reuters.

Mr. Sarraf said his father had just bought four million Iraqi dinars and his uncle two million on hopes the currency's value —

which is lower than it has been for months — would recover.

"There are people taking the Iraqi dinar ... who in the eventuality of the regime's downfall would benefit because the dinar is very low," Ardasher Khazem of Kuwait's Al Jari Exchange said.

Moneychangers in the emirate of Dubai said Sunday's Gulf wholesale rate stood at \$63,500 for one million dinars.

Rates hit a low of \$62,500 for a million dinars two weeks ago at the height of Iraq's dispute with U.N. weapons inspectors but bounced back to more than \$65,000 when the issue was resolved last week, they said. It hit \$73,000 per million dinars in June.

Kuwaiti dealers said their Iraqi dinar rates actually rose when tension between Iraq and the United States escalated because local speculators, the regime would be overthrown, fuelling a dramatic rise in the currency's value.

Iraq's official exchange rate remains set at \$3.10 to the dinar, but the currency is trading on the black market there at between 24-20 dinars per dollar. This compares with 15-16 dinars per dollar in Gulf centres.

Gulf-based banks are not buying the currency but moneychangers in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are also selling it to speculators.

## 'Infidel' and fundamentalist Kurds square off in north Iraq

KALAR, Iraq (AP) — The deadliest so far of a growing number of clashes between rival Iraqi Kurdish groups was ignited by a fight over a tombstone.

After a two-day battle that left nearly a score or more dead — the two forces were widely in their casualty counts — tensions remain at the trigger point between fundamentalist Muslim Kurds and one of the "infidel" leftist groups bent on winning autonomy in northern Iraq.

While the leftist guerrillas of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) play down the blood feud, the fundamentalists, eager to install Islamic law in northern Iraq if autonomy should be won, say they are ready to attack again if necessary their Marxist-leaning rivals.

Just as their ideologies differ radically, so did both sides' accounts of the battle that began Thursday and lasted through Friday.

Sparks began to fly when two PUK guerrillas approached a training camp operated by the fundamentalist Islamic Movement of Kurdistan in hopes of carrying a tombstone for one of their dead.

It seems the tombstone supply in Kalar, a town of 70,000 people, came under the control of the fundamentalists, inherited when Iraqi soldiers abandoned a military barracks. They insist that any non-fundamentalist seeking a tombstone show up with the body of the dead person and then go to a mosque to complete paperwork to win permission.

Apparently this arrangement was not to the PUK's liking. An argument exploded into a shoot-

out, in which PUK officials said the two guerrillas were killed.

The PUK then attacked a mosque and two other fundamentalist strongholds in the town, in a failed bid to storm them.

Kurdo Kasim, a ranking PUK official, taking a journalist on a tour of the town Sunday, first insisted that his group suffered only those two dead and killed 27 fundamentalists. But then he admitted, faced with conflicting reports, that the PUK's toll was five dead, eight wounded.

The fundamentalist claim they lost 11 fighters, not 27, and that the PUK's dead was much higher, 38.

Mr. Kasim said after two days of intermittent fighting, the fundamentalists agreed to hand over those "guilty" of starting the fight, compensate the families of the victims and withdraw from all mosques within a week.

"All this had been an accident. We are now brothers once again, and peace reigns," Mr. Kasim said. While he talked, his guerrillas patrolled Kalar's streets with Kalashnikovs and anti-tank grenades.

But in a backroom of the mosque, the local Islamic leader did not seem ready to forgive and forget.

"They had been preparing to attack us for a long time, and they seized on a trivial argument to carry out their plans," contended Nejim Abdullah, sitting beside an oil lamp in the room, decorated by quotations from the Koran.

Sleeping guerrillas, their heads resting on their Kalashnikovs, packed a courtyard outside the mosque.

The walls were pockmarked by



Nayef Hawatmeh ready to meet Israelis

TEL AVIV (AP) — Nayef Hawatmeh, one of the most hard-line Palestinian guerrilla leaders and an opponent of current Mideast peace talks, says he is willing to meet Israelis "anytime, anywhere," a legislator said Monday.

Hashem Mahamid, an Israeli-Arab parliament member from the Communist Party, quoted Mr. Hawatmeh from a meeting in Tunis. Mr. Mahamid and other Israelis returned from the Tunisian capital Sunday.

Mr. Mahamid said on Israeli Radio that he also met Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), during his trip last week.

He said most Palestinians he encountered in Tunis believed "there is an historic opportunity (for peace) not to be wasted" since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's June 23 election victory.

Mr. Rabin's Labour Party favours "territorial compromise" whereas the previous right-wing Likud Party government objected to yielding land to the Arabs.

But Mr. Hawatmeh's remarks seemed the most startling to Mr. Mahamid.

Mr. Hawatmeh's organisation, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), has been most outspoken against Israel. Although the first PLO faction to call for recognising Israel, it has been blamed for some of the worst attacks.

The Jordanian-born Hawatmeh, 38, has also opposed the U.S.-brokered peace talks launched in Madrid last October, maintaining the Palestinians had compromised on their demands for statehood by attending.

Mr. Mahamid said that "the PLO including all its factions, left and right, including — and I must point out — Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front, he said things that I personally have never heard."

When asked what Mr. Hawatmeh said, Mr. Mahamid replied: "That he was ready to meet any Israeli personality, anytime, anywhere, to put an end to this situation existing for decades, that the time has come now for dialogue."

Mr. Mahamid also said he heard "from everyone I met, without exception, that the realistic solution they must reach is a Palestinian state alongside Israel, in other words that Israel is an existing fact. ... It seems to me this is recognition."

Mr. Rabin objects to Palestinian statehood but has promised to work to implement an interim settlement of autonomy for Palestinians within a year.

Israel passed a law in 1986 barring meetings between Israelis and officials of the PLO, and mandating a maximum three-year jail sentence.

Mr. Mahamid said he was neither detained nor questioned about his Tunis trip. But one Likud legislator, Michael Eitan, was quoted on the radio as calling for a probe and for parliament to strip Mr. Mahamid of his legal immunity so he could be put on trial for meeting Mr. Arafat.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### For Iraq, just to be in Barcelona is victory

BARCELONA (R) — Two years to the day after the invasion of Kuwait which triggered the Gulf war, Iraq is celebrating a victory — its presence at the Barcelona Olympics. "The simple fact that we are in Barcelona is a victory," Iraqi chief of mission Saad Athami told the newspaper La Vanguardia in an interview published Sunday. "It represents a breach of the blockade against Iraq a victory considering the difficult situation our country is living through."

Mr. Athami defended the nine-man Iraqi team's "V-for-victory" gesture at last weekend's opening ceremony. It was not intended as an aggression against anyone, he said. "At that moment we could hear the sound of U.S. bombs falling on us again," he said. Asked how the war had affected the Olympic games, Mr. Athami said many athletes had been team's preparation. Mr. Athami said many athletes had been team's preparation. Mr. Athami said many athletes had been team's preparation.

### Turkey to tame illegal gun making

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's long-standing illegal home-made weapons industry flourishing on the Black Sea coast is to be turned into a regional money-maker with government support, the Anatolia news agency said Sunday. About 150,000 skilled artisans in the region use obsolete machinery in makeshift workshops to produce pistols, semi-automatic sidearms and hunting rifles sold locally and in a lively cross-border trade in neighbouring Syria and Iran. Two state-run organisations, the machinery and chemicals group Makine ve Kimya Endustrisi (MKE) and the Management for Developing Small and Middle-Scale Industries (KOSGEB), will run the project to produce legally 30,000 pistols a year in the Black Sea provinces of Trabzon, Gumushane, Rize and Artvin. "We want to boost legalised manufacture of good-quality pistols to strengthen the region economically," KOSGEB chief Saadetin Karaerkek told the agency. "Our aim is to lay down the regional sub-structure in precision manufacturing that can go on to produce scales, steel yards, motorcycles, bicycles, sewing machines, medical equipment and any spare parts that require precision," he said. Mr. Karaerkek predicted that the region, where livelihood mostly depends on fishing and tea and hazelnut cultivation, would reap significant economic benefits from the weapons industry.

### N. Korean minister ends Tehran visit

NICOSIA (AP) — North Korea's Foreign minister wrapped up a four-day trip to Iran Monday after discussions to coordinate views before next month's summit of non-aligned nations, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The visit by Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam was believed to be the highest-level visit by a North Korean official since U.S. allegations in March that North Korea had shipped Scud-C missiles to Iran, possibly for transshipment to Syria. Iran and Syria denied receiving missiles from North Korea, and after threats to intercept the ship Dae Hong No, U.S. officials finally said they could not prove the cargo contained such weapons. Both countries are also watched closely by Western nations because of fears they might cooperate on developing nuclear weapons. Iran has also denied that it has or intends to develop nuclear arms. The Iranian news agency said Mr. Kim described his trip as "successful" and said "his talks with Iranian officials focused on coordination of Tehran-Pyongyang views in the forthcoming summit meet of the Non-Aligned Movement to be held in Jakarta in September." Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who was present at the airport as Mr. Kim departed, said organisations such as the Non-Aligned Movement "play an important role in the shaping of the new world order," the news agency said. It said Mr. Velayati confirmed that Iran's and North Korea's views are "harmonious on general issues to a great extent" and added that the Iranian minister of state for external affairs would soon visit Tehran on a similar mission.

### Mugabe under fire for remark on Jews

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe is facing a barrage of condemnation from opposition parties and local Jewish community for describing white farmers as "hard-hearted Jews." At a rally two weeks ago, Mr. Mugabe criticised white farmers in the drought-stricken southwest for not letting peasants graze their cattle on their land. "These people are now behaving like Jews, hard-hearted Jews," he said. He repeated the remark at another rally last week which was attended by the Palestine Liberation Organisation's representative in Harare, Ali Halimeh. Mr. Mugabe expressed surprise at the reaction to his comment, saying he believed Jews were hard-hearted because successive Israeli governments had refused to give up land seized from Arabs. "If Mr. Mugabe meant to draw an analogy between the commercial farmers' reluctance and the Israeli government's stubbornness to give up occupied lands, he should have gone into more detail," the independent Sunday Times newspaper commented. "It is not the statesmanlike thing to do."

### Ex-hostages blame British Airways for ordeal

PARIS (AP) — Frenchmen taken hostage two years ago by Iraq at Kuwait City airport held a brief demonstration Sunday to press their demands for recompense from British Airways, which they hold responsible for their ordeal. "Visit Iraq with British Airways" read a banner stretched in front of the British Airways counter at Charles de Gaulle airport where about 20 demonstrators gathered. The group faults British Airways for making a stopover in Kuwait on its flight from London to Malaysia despite the "extreme tensions" in the region. Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2. The 364 passengers, including 65 French, aboard the British Airways flight were detained by Iraq, with some of them transferred to strategic sites in Iraq where they were held for up to three months. On July 21, the protest group took its case to a Paris court seeking reparations. Dr. Paul Merlet of Nantes, who created a defence association for the ex-hostages, said they are seeking damages plus indemnities corresponding to the loss of baggage, medical check-ups and reimbursement to the French government for money it extended to them.

## 2 armed Islamic groups broken up in Algeria

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Security forces in Algeria have arrested some 35 members of two armed Islamic groups in the town of Al Oued on the edge of the Sahara Desert, the state news agency APS reported last Sunday.

It quoted reliable sources as saying 90 kilograms of explosives, 130 "bombs of different strengths," bomb-making equipment and "Afghan clothing" had been seized in the operation over the last two days.

A number of young Algerians fought in Afghanistan over the last decade as members of Islamic guerrilla groups challenging the then Soviet-backed government and returned to join Algeria's own Islamic movements.

The agency reported 16 other arrests on security charges in different parts of the country. It said those held included four members of a group it called Al Kitab oua Essuna oua Al Djamaa (Scripture, Tradition and Community), which police have blamed for attacks in areas southwest of Algiers.

Violence has surged in Algeria since authorities cancelled elections which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win in January. A court banned the movement in March. APS's sources said those arrested in Al Oued, 510 kilometres southeast of Algiers, were affiliated to the "armed Islamic movement" (MIA) and were operating under the cover of a "humanitarian organisation."

It said some of those arrested came from Algiers. Their function had been to recruit people and assemble material for operations in the north of the country. Two "armed" Islamic groups have announced their existence by issuing communiqués but the MIA and Al Kitab oua Essuna oua Al Djamaa are known only from reports on APS and in newspapers close to the government.

The arrests appeared to signal a strengthening of the get-tough policy by the ruling High State Council since Ali Kafi assumed the presidency following the June 29 assassination of Mohammed Boudiaf.

## Official urges U.N. guards for Somalia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first senior U.S. official to visit the Somali capital of Mogadishu in 18 months is urging that 500 armed U.N. security personnel be sent there to provide protection for an emergency food airlift.

A proposal to send the 500 guards ran into a roadblock last week when a factional leader in Somalia's civil war expressed opposition to the plan, thus raising doubts as to whether the security personnel could carry out their mission safely.

But James Kunder, head of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, said the humanitarian situation in Mogadishu is so desperate that the U.N. contingent should be sent anyway.

Protected by about a dozen armed body guards, Mr. Kunder ventured into Mogadishu last Wednesday and saw "horrendous concentrations of human misery."

He said the objections voiced by one of the factional leaders, Mohammed Farah Aideded, to the United Nations security guard presence should not rule the mission out.

"I don't think that the world community can in good conscience require that every participant in the conflict has to be on board," Mr. Kunder said in an interview after his return.

The U.N. Security Council last week authorised an airlift of food supplies but the fate of the plan was left up in the air after General Aideded made known his objections.

Some U.N. and U.S. officials are worried that U.N. Security Personnel might be sitting ducks if they are dispatched to the Mogadishu bloodbath.

Mr. Kunder said one hospital in the capital is receiving between 30 and 50 gunshot wound victims daily.

Fifty U.N. ceasefire observers have already been sent to the country, where clan-based fighting has been going on for years.

The United States closed its embassy in Mogadishu in January 1991 because of the unsafe conditions. Mr. Kunder is the first senior level official to visit the capital since then.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, a Republican, was to have visited Mogadishu with Mr. Kunder two weeks ago but cancelled the plan because of the security situation. Her visit to Somalia was limited to a central provincial city.

The International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that 1.5 million Somalis are in danger of dying of starvation over the short term. The crisis in Somalia is considered far worse than in any other country.

Mr. Kunder said the time for considering humanitarian intervention has long since passed. "It's time to do it," he said.

He said a Red Cross network is feeding about 250,000 Somalis in the capital two meals a day but many others are not being reached.

## Clinton seen reasserting U.S. tilt towards Israel

By Carol Giacomo  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Democratic candidate Bill Clinton's statements on the Middle East peace process suggest he would reassert a strong U.S. tilt towards Israel if elected president.

But some experts say Mr. Clinton would not be able to reverse President George Bush's more neutral pattern which now underpins a revived Arab-Israeli negotiating process.

"If I'm elected president, I will never let Israel down," Mr. Clinton told a Jewish community seminar in Washington in June.

The administration of former President Ronald Reagan seemed almost blindly unquestioning of Israel, Washington's closest Mideast ally, and never got anywhere with the peace

process. Mr. Bush adopted a more pragmatic approach that many experts and diplomats say was crucial to reviving the peace talks.

Against odds, Mr. Bush and Secretary of State James Baker nudged ancient enemies to the negotiating table last year for peace talks that now seem poised to make substantive gains.

But in the process, although Mr. Bush continued to assert an unshakable U.S. commitment to Israel's security, U.S. relations with the Jewish state deteriorated dramatically.

This was partly because of a personal animus between him and former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and also because he held up \$10 billion in loan guarantees needed to help absorb thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Mr. Clinton, in official papers and speeches, has blasted Bush for "gravely harming" ties with Israel, citing in particular a news conference last September when Mr. Bush complained that his stand on loan guarantees was undercut by the pro-Israel lobby.

Like other international issues, Mideast policy has not received much attention in the 1992 U.S. presidential campaign and so knowledge of Mr. Clinton's positions is confined to what little he has said.

"This administration has pressured Israel relentlessly to make one-sided concessions in the peace process," the Arkansas governor told the Jewish seminar without giving examples beyond Mr. Bush's demand to halt settlements in Israeli-held Arab lands.

Mr. Clinton accused the administration of ignoring the Arab economic boycott of Israel, although Mr. Baker has

often raised the issue with Arab leaders, and of focusing only on things Israel did with which the United States disagreed.

He claimed Mr. Bush eroded Israel's security by selling arms to Arab states and said he would oppose attaching conditions, like halting settlements in the occupied territories, to loan guarantees.

But as the campaign heats up the Arab-Israeli peace process is not expected to develop as a major divisive issue.

Mr. Clinton may gain with American Jews, a politically active community that could be an edge in a close race, if he stresses what experts call a "litmus test" approach to Israel.

But many analysts say Mr. Bush is likely to reap huge benefits from the peace talks.

Israel's new prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, has acted to curb settlements and accelerate negotiations with the Arabs. Last week on a trip to the region, Baker began what is likely to be a quick and easy job of repairing U.S.-Israeli ties. Mr. Bush will carry it further by announcing a loan guarantee deal when Mr. Rabin visits his Maine vacation home on Aug. 10-11.

Leading Arab-Americans have attacked the Democratic Party platform and Mr. Clinton's positions as too pro-Israel and are fearful where they would lead if he succeeded Mr. Bush.

Samih Farsoun of American University said that while he expects the "basic thrust of the peace process of continue under either candidate, the nuance Clinton will bring will be decidedly pro-Israel and less sympathetic to the Palestinians."

**JORDAN TELEVISION**  
Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**

12:30	Olympics
13:30	Les Aventures de Joe
14:30	Documentary
15:30	Marc et Sophie
16:30	News in French
17:30	Le Cirque
18:30	News in Hebrew
19:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Acropolis Now
21:30	Olympics
22:30	News in English

Oscar Film: "An Ideal Husband"  
34:00 News in English

**PRAYER TIMES**

04:28	Fajr
05:47	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:42	Dhuhr
16:22	Asr
19:36	Maghrib
21:03	Isha

**CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidah, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Teremunt Church Tel. 623666  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628542  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Zakaria Church Tel. 771751  
Assuan International Church Tel. 683326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691  
Church of the Redeemer — Tel. 683326

**WEATHER**

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.	
Amman	17 / 32
Aqaba	25 / 39

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts ..... 15 / 35  
Jordan Valley ..... 24 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:  
Mr. Mohammed Al Nahawi ..... 699925  
Dr. Fakhri Bishara ..... 625778  
Dr. Walid Al Masri ..... 674465  
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh ..... 696265  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Assana pharmacy ..... 637035  
Nabrouk pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 649495  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 637660

Dr. Ali Al Omari (—)

**EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 63023  
Hotel Complaints ..... 60300  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information  
(directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone

**HOSPITALS**

AMMAN:  
Hamid Medical Centre ..... 513813/22  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642816  
Aldhah Maternity, J. Amn. .... 64241/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malles, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsi ..... 664171/4  
Shamsi Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845945  
Al-Mushter Hospital ..... 667227/8  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666277/57  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Jubaila, Al-Mahdara ..... 775112/6  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf ..... 89161/15  
Army, Marja ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155

Repairs  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 623101  
Jordan Television ..... 661107  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power  
Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 06-53200

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09) 5202-5, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00	Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
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**DEPARTURES**

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06:00	Amman (RJ)
06:30	Amman, New York (RJ)
12:00	Vienam (RJ)
12:45	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
13:45	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:55	Frankfurt (RJ)
14:05	Cairo (RJ)
14:35	London (RJ)
21:30	Jeddah (RJ)
21:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:15	Larnaca (RJ)
22:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

16:00	Beirut, Rome (AZ)
14:15	Cairo (MS)
16:30	Riyadh (SU)
01:00	Bucharest (RO)

**MARKET PRICES**

Uppercase price is for per kg

Apple (red)	550 / 30
Banana	500 / 40
Banana (Mekammar)	550 / 30
Beans	550 / 30
Cabbage	90 / 50
Carrot	240 / 20
Cornflower	260 / 20
Cucumbers (large)	120 / 10
Cucumbers (small)	210 / 150
Eggplant	140 / 30
Garlic	550 / 40
Lemon	750 / 60
Marrow (large)	150 / 100
Marrow (small)	300 / 20
Onion (dry)	130 / 90
Onion (green)	150 / 100
Oranges	450 / 400
Peaches	550 / 300
Pineapple	220 / 160
Pepper (hot)	160 / 120
Pepper (sweet)	180 / 120
Potato	180 / 120
Sweet Melon	200 / 150
Tomato	70 / 40
Watermelon	70 / 30

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## Jordanian supplies distributed to Chechen republic clinics

GROZNY (J.T.) — Medicine and other relief supplies contributed by Jordan to the autonomous republic Chechen-Ingushetia are being distributed to various hospitals and health clinics in the capital Grozny and other parts of the country, according to Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, secretary general of the Hashemite Charitable Organisation which sponsored the contribution.

The people and the leaders of the Chechen republic have voiced their deep appreciation for this generous contribution, which arrived in Grozny Friday, said Dr. Abbadi.

He said that the 16.5 tonnes of medicine donated by the organisation, together with medical supplies donated by Jordanian banks and pharmaceutical companies in Jordan, arrived in the Chechen-Ingushetia Republic on board a special military plane.

The value of the supplies sent to Grozny was estimated by Jordanian officials to be JD 150,000. Dr. Abbadi, who is leading the team of Jordanian officials on board the plane that carried

the supplies said the shipment, arrival at Grozny was facilitated through the efforts of the Russian authorities.

Residents of the Chechen republic told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the moral value of the medical supplies far exceeded their material value.

Abbadi said that the shipment, ordered by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal, was the first of a series of contributions between the Jordanian and the Chechen Ingush people.

He said that the Jordanian delegation accompanying him to Grozny has conducted talks with local officials on bilateral cooperation in cultural and economic fields. The shipment of medical aid to Chechen-Ingushetia is the second of its kind to the former Soviet republic and comes close on the heels of another shipment which the Hashemite Charitable Organisation sent to the Somali refugees in Yemen fleeing their civil-war torn nation.

The Hashemite Charitable Organisation had earlier sent other aid shipments to Sudan, Bangladesh and Bosnia Herzegovina.

## Projects from roads to security centre announced during multi-ministerial visit

IRBID (Petra) — A group of eleven government ministers, led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thougan Al Hindawi, visited the Bani Kinaneh district in the northern regions of Jordan on Monday where they met Parliament members from the local constituencies and heads of municipal and village councils. They discussed services and projects for their areas.

The ministers of higher education, tourism, labour, posts and communications, public works and housing, water and irrigation, interior, health, social development and the minister of state, first stopped at Hartha.

The local people's requests were presented by the town mayor and a number of notables.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Al Sour announced that his ministry was now opening a public works office supplied with machinery to a new agricultural road along the Yarmouk River. He said that JD100,000 has been allocated to finance this vital project to be implemented in cooperation with the Jordanian Armed Forces.



Thougan Al Hindawi

He said that other roads in the district will be opened in the course of a plan to expand the country's network of agricultural roads which so far have cost the treasury this year JD700,000.

Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh told the meeting that the Bani Kinaneh district inhabited by nearly 60,500 people, needs a hospital to be established next year. The Australian government has suggested that a 100-bed hospital be set up with Australian help in Amman and the Health Ministry has suggested

that it be built at the Bani Kinaneh district instead, added Dr. Bataineh.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar said that the Irbid governorate suffers from water shortages largely due to the leakages in the network. The ministry is currently doing repair work to the network and water is being pumped to Irbid from the Al Aqab artesian wells.

The minister of interior said that it has been decided to set up a security centre in the Bani Kinaneh district and a tender for the project will soon be announced.

Minister of Social Development Amin Mashaqbeh said that a centre for the rehabilitation of the dumb and deaf will be set up in the district by the middle of August and studies will be conducted on the prospect of setting up a community centre in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF). He said the Ministry of Social Development, is currently offering monthly assistance totalling JD14,705 to 689 needy families in the Bani Kinaneh district.

## 3,000 travellers now allowed to cross bridge to West Bank

SOUTH SHUNEH (J.T.) — Travellers across the King Hussein Bridge on the River Jordan will be allowed to cross into the West Bank at the rate of 3,000 a day starting (Tuesday), according to a Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department announcement.

The Israelis who control the passage of Palestinian visitors to the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip announced on Monday that only 1,000 people were to be allowed to pass claiming that the bridge was undergoing maintenance work.

Meanwhile a group of Lower House of Parliament members Monday paid a visit to the King Hussein Bridge to study the situation there following Israeli measures to delay the crossing of Palestinian travellers to the occupied Arab territories.

The deputies, members of the

House's Palestine affairs committee, met with travellers and Jordanian government officials. They were briefed on the situation and the procedures for crossing.

The visit of Bassam Haddadin, Abdul Aziz Jaber, Ziyad Abu Mahfouz and Mohammad Al Haj followed reports that Israel was drastically reducing the number of Arabs allowed to cross into the occupied territories.

Adel Insheid, head of the Department of Palestinian Affairs, appealed to the World Community to intercede with Israel to ease the human suffering resulting from Israel's actions. Mr. Insheid said Israel has not been abiding by an agreed summer quota that allows more than 22,000 people to cross the bridge heading to the West Bank weekly.

Following the inspection, Mr.

Haddadin said that the deputies' call at the bridge was to examine first hand the situation. After touring various sections of the bridge, station and terminal, he said that the Jordanian officials were trying their best to offer all possible services to those arriving in Jordan or travelling to the West Bank.

He condemned Israel's delay as arbitrary measures that can only cause suffering to the Palestinian people.

In 1990, Jordan and Israel agreed through the U.N. Truce Committee, to allow up to 4,000 people daily for five days a week with an additional 2,000 to cross on Fridays.

The quota was limited to the summer season starting May 15 until Sept. 1, when bridge traffic usually is swollen by visitors to the West Bank.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

**Muscat stock official leaves**

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of Muscat Stock Market Mahmoud Ben Mohammad Al Jarwani has left Amman following a several-day visit during which he met with Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi. Mr. Jarwani also held talks with Amman Financial Market (APM) Director General Umayya Touqan and reviewed with him scopes of cooperation between APM and Muscat Stock Market.

**Jordan participation at Arab scientific meeting**

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the Arab Scientific Council for Community Medicine due to open in Damascus Wednesday. The council will discuss in its two-day meetings several issues related to specialisations in community medicine. Jordan's delegation to the meetings will be headed by Secretary General of the Ministry of Health Adnan Abbas and will include as members vice-president of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Saad Hijazi and Dr. Farouq Shakhata of the Medicine Faculty at the University of Jordan.

## America, Japan open doors to Jordanian tiles

By Cosima Haddidi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian marble tiles will soon decorate many American and Japanese homes. These markets have opened following Jordan's participation in an international tile exposition held in Chicago in June. No Jordanian manufacturer had ever participated in any marble show and manufacturers did not think there was a market for their product in the United States.

However, Export Trade Service Jordan, an export service funded by USAID and operating with the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation, initiated a query to its office in the United States which indicated that there was indeed a market for Jordanian marble and specifically for limestone for the next four years, said Nayef Stetler, export specialist at ETS.

The office also suggested that Jordanian manufacturers participate in the largest tile exhibition in North America. The United States office paid for booth space, purchased a mobile display unit for the show, and placed prime articles in leading tile magazines. Advertising, and promotion were initiated by both ETS offices and used successfully before and after the exhibition.

## Leaks at Irbid mosque first fixed before restoration

IRBID (J.T.) — Members of a committee entrusted with restoring the tombs of Prophet Mohammad's companions and mosques in the Kingdom Monday inspected Irbid Grand Mosque and the surrounding area.

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that the process of restoring the mosques will be conducted in two stages.

The first will include fixing leaks in the roofs of the mosque before winter starts. The second will entail a more comprehensive restoration project to preserve the Islamic heritage in the mosque, the minister said.

Irbid Mosque was built in the Ottoman era and was restored in 1939 during late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein's reign. The restoration process at the time included replacing old poles and adding iron bridges to the ceiling. The minister said the surrounding wall were also added in the process. The mosque was expanded again in 1946.

Stone arches and the mosque's western wall were built in 1955. As a result of these unplanned expansions and additions, spaces and cracks between the older parts of the building and the newer ones started to appear, causing leaks in winter.

The committee was formed in response to instructions by His Majesty King Hussein, who made cash donations to finance the

restorations of shrines in the Kingdom. Mr. Tamimi, who was accompanied on the visit by Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat, Public Works and Housing Minister Saad Hayel Sourour and several Lower House of Parliament members, said that the committee's visits to Irbid Grand Mosque come in response to King Hussein's desire to keep the mosque in good conditions and to developing the tombs of Prophet Mohammad's companions.

The companions of the Prophet had led the Islamic armies against the Byzantine forces in the Middle East region in the course of the Islamic fighting against the foreign domination of the region.

Last June, King Hussein announced that he was making a personal donation to finance the restoration of the shrines in the Kingdom.

In a message to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on June 9, the King said he would follow up the restoration work of all sacred tombs and various mosques built on the burial places of Prophet Mohammad's companions.

King Hussein said he was contributing JD50,000 to the restoration of Irbid Mosque and several other shrines around the Kingdom.

Also, the Ministry of Awqaf has already made plans for JD3.5 million to be spent on the restoration of the shrines and for the renovation of mosques.



Jamal Sarairoh

At present, Jerash has its own telephone services, but are lacking in the surrounding villages, said the minister who conducted inspection tours of all post offices and communications centres in the district.

Preference in providing services will go to those regions that telephone services, with attention being turned to those areas served with semi-automatic telephone exchanges, the minister added.

Jerash representative at the Lower House of Parliament Deputy Issa Remoni voiced his constituency's population's appreciation of the government's concern. The heads of the local councils attending the meeting thanked the government's efforts.

The minister's tour took him to Musherfeh, Balila, Kufur Hill, Asfour, Jarrara, Burma, Jerash refugee camp, Kafir, Mostaba and other villages and population settlements.

He was accompanied by the ministry secretary general Abdulrah Al Jazi and other officials.

## Italians to deliver 4,200 tonnes of rice to Port of Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — On Wednesday a cargo of 4,200 tonnes rice will be delivered at the port of Aqaba to the Jordan Ministry of Supply, to be distributed in the country. It is just the first of four tranches shipped by the Italian authorities through bilateral cooperation — the final amount being some 18,000 tonnes, according to a press release from the Italian embassy.

This kind of cooperation was decided in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis to help Jordan face the influx of some 300,000 returnees.

It is only one of the various forms of cooperation by which Italy contributes to the recovery of the Jordanian economy, whose balance of payments suffers from a traditional structural deficit

which has been largely increased due to growing population and respect of sanctions against Iraq.

Jordan is a priority country in the Italian economic engagements towards the Middle East. Besides such elementary aid, Italy and Jordan agreed upon a bilateral protocol concerning the 1991-1993 technical and financial cooperation programme, which provides a global allocation of grants of some 60 million dollars. A list of projects — some to be completed and others to be started — has been decided: training in handicraft, graphic arts, monument and mosaic restoration, and sanitary projects are only some of the many fields involved.

Training on handicraftship, graphic arts and monument and mosaic restoration is vital to Jordan, because it creates the pre-conditions to development of tourism — a valuable source of foreign currency. This is why Italian cooperation has been and still is working in this direction.

At the same time, Jordan will soon benefit from soft loans — about 40 million dollars — allowed by the Italian government to the Jordan authorities to finance an import programme which matches national planning.

The Italian government attaches great importance to increasing the effectiveness of bilateral and multilateral cooperation and to working together with Jordan in coordinating and updating it according to the current needs and requirements of the economy.

## Mouth-watering produce likely to dry up pockets

By Laney Salisbury  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — There's a cot for stretching out. A stove for making tea. Plenty of shade for staring at cars while a radio rolls out Arabic tunes 24-hours-a-day — selling watermelons is an easy job.

But not in 1992.

Peddlers of this succulent trade are not only inhaling fumes from the increasing number of cars on Amman's streets but also struggling with stiff competition and plummeting prices.

"Born among melons" 23 years ago, Ghabib Mahmoud Ibrahim says 1992 is his worst business year.

As the aroma of melons ripening in the heat wafts through the obnoxious orange tint, Mr. Ibrahim concedes he's "not going to sell all these."

Sitting in the shade, he complains that fewer people are buying his melons, becoming cheaper by the week.

Mr. Ibrahim says he expects to earn JD 500 this season, 25 per cent less than years past.

His operation annually costs about JD 700, of which JD 300 is for the permit (JD 200 is in deposit ensuring waste and produce regulations are followed), JD 200 for the tent and JD 200 in transportation and other expenses.

"I'm not going to cover my costs," he says, waving a hand over his "office" where 1 to 10-kilogrammes green and white striped melons lay stacked.

Part of the reason is increased competition.

According to the Amman Municipality Central Market director, Abdul Rahim Al Abbadi, 160 permits for the June-December melon season

have been issued so far this year. This compares to the total 183 licences allowed last year.

Mr. Abbadi could not give exact 1992 figures but says the municipality expected more sellers by December. It is issuing licences to pretty much anyone who qualifies.

"We are giving out so many permits because there are so many watermelons," Mr. Abbadi says, adding farmers need as many outlets as possible.

Throughout Amman, from circles to shopping centres, Jordanians and Egyptians, some schooled from economics to literature, sell these fruits rich in vitamin A and C that are eaten raw or pickled.

"It's the only job I could find," says 30-year-old Egyptian Mohammed Azhari, who says he has a B.A. in Arabic literature.

Having started in May, Mr. Azhari earns about JD 80 a month, "losing many" watermelons that sat in the sun too long.

Like many sellers, Mr. Azhari's prices have dropped because of overproduction from a minimum 15 fil per kg in years past to four fil nowdays, depending on quality.

According to Mr. Abbadi, 500 to 600 trucks daily dump two tonnes of watermelon each at the Central Market, where many peddlers buy their produce. That's 1.2 million kgs of watermelon, and if priced at an average of 80 fil per kg in retail, it is a whopping JD96,000 a day business. Or, if there were 200 sellers by December, each would earn JD 480 a day.

But the figures are only on paper. Merchants compete with shops, freelancers, over-



Cheap and plentiful — good for customers but not for sellers

sated Ammanis and the sun. In addition, according to Mr. Abbadi, the first shipment of watermelons in June sold for JD 1,000. The price now is JD 90.

Farmers are now selling at a loss because of the oversupply, Mr. Abbadi said, criticising the absence of coordination between the government and the farmers of the central and northern valley and the eastern part of the country.

In general, 1992 was a good year for fruits and vegetables

partly because the cold winter killed insects and the Ministry of Agriculture has been regularly spraying pesticides, the agriculture minister was quoted as saying in the local press.

But since the Gulf crisis Jordan has also lost its regional export market. Jordanian watermelons, renowned for their sweetness, cost about JD 5 per average sized melon in the Gulf states.

Lebanon has also stopped

importing Jordanian produce.

But watermelon sellers are as likely to disappear from the Amman landscape as these antiquities of agriculture dating back more than 4,000 years.

Despite rotten business, watermelon sellers said they are determined to stick around.

"This is the worst year I've had," said Abdul Razzaq, who has sold melons in Amman for at least 30 years. "But it's the only business I know. I will be back next season."

## Greek Orthodox church slams Israel for desecrating sacred land property

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's Greek Orthodox Church and community condemned Israel's continued violation and desecration of holy places in Jerusalem and other parts of the occupied territories. It also slammed the demolition of Orthodox churches and the seizure of Greek Orthodox estates for Israeli military or civilian use.

The head priest of the Orthodox church in Amman, Father Costantine Karmash, appealed to the world community to help end the violations, the latest, the demolition of the Ascension Church on Tury Mountain, east of the holy city.

Father Karmash described the destruction and pillage of Greek Orthodox churches and property as part of a general Israeli design to obliterate Islamic and Christian holy places in Palestine beyond Judaizing the whole land.

In reviewing a number of Israeli violations, Father Karmash said that churches and church estates in Bisan, Tiberias, and other parts of the Galilee were confiscated under pretext of security.

He said that recently Israel demolished the St. George Church at Birket Al Sultan District in Jerusalem and built a night club. Another acts included transforming the Russian churches in the Galilee and Jerusalem into government offices, said Father Karmash.

A nunnery in Jerusalem was also seized by the Israeli author-

ities to be turned into a Women's prison, near the Damascus Gate of the walled city.

Father Karmash said that violence committed by the Israelis covered religious leaders, one of whom was the head of a church in Nablus and was murdered by Jewish extremists. The extremists also murdered two nuns in Alan Karim town near Jerusalem, he added.

Father Karmash said that the

Israelis had stolen valuable manuscripts from St. Catherine Church in Sinai and demolished a cross and other relics at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Father Karmash said that the Israeli authorities had confiscated a number of church-owned land in Haifa, Afulah, Ramleh, Kufur Kanna and Nasareth and settled Jewish immigrants on the confiscated land.

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975  
Jordan Times is a daily newspaper published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## Water on track

THE TALKS the Turkish foreign minister held in Damascus with Syrian leaders over the weekend will hopefully save the day for the two neighbouring countries over the recent statement by the Turkish prime minister, Suleyman Demirel, on water rights from the rivers of Euphrates and Tigris. Demirel was drawing a parallel between Arab oil reserves over which Turkey has no right and water that flows from Turkey into Syria and Iraq over which he also maintained Syria and Iraq had no rights. In so doing Turkey was making a comparison between incompatible situations as under international law riparian states have rights to water from international rivers but have no equivalent rights to oil reserves that belong to Syria, Iraq and the rest of the Arab oil countries in North Africa and the Gulf region. Now that the Turkish foreign minister has made amends during his visit to Syria and seemingly accepted to put the water issue in proper perspective, there is no reason whatsoever why the bilateral relations between Turkey and Syria cannot once again be put on the right track. As long as international law and good neighbourly relations between Damascus and Ankara can be the basis for establishing and maintaining such relations, there is no limit to developing a more solid relationship between the two countries and even building more constructive ties in the future. Needless to say that the importance of friendly relationships between Ankara on one hand and Damascus and Baghdad on the other hand cannot be overemphasised. There is little doubt that the rest of the Arab capitals would view strained relations between Damascus and Baghdad and Ankara because of a dispute on water rights with great deal of anxiety. The sooner this water rights issue is resolved amicably and lawfully, the better it would be for the entire Middle East region.

## Can't be ambivalent

THE ARAB World appears to be ambivalent on the conflict in Yugoslavia without an apparent coherent policy in spite of the fact that the outcome of the unfolding crisis may have far reaching implications for the various Arab states. The Bosnian situation in particular is alarming in view of the fact that the ethnic and national conflicts between the Bosnians on one hand and the Serbs and Croats on the other have developed along religious grounds, something that is reminiscent of the religious wars' era in the past. In the midst of the confusion that has surrounded the struggle to break up Yugoslavia into several mini-states, it has become forgotten that the Muslims of Bosnia are the purest of all Slavs in the former Yugoslav federation and that nationally and ethnically they are an integral part of the Slavic peoples in the area. The fact that they are also Muslims by faith and religion need not distort their belonging to the greater Slavic nationality. It is absurd of the Serbs and Croats therefore to regard their fellow nationals the Bosnians as some sort of aliens simply because they belong to another religion. This is where the drama in Yugoslavia rests, and when and if there is a more enlightened approach to that problem on a more sound basis, there would be an opportunity to address the whole Yugoslav crisis. The senseless bloodletting that still goes on between the Serbs and Bosnians especially has got to stop and both the Islamic and Arab worlds have got to pool their resources and ingenuity to intervene in a positive way with a view to first stopping the carnage in former Yugoslavia and then to direct their attention and diplomacy on the entire situation there with a view to contributing constructively to the conflict. Till this point in time there is no sign that either the Islamic World or the Arab World has even begun to treat the crisis in that country with the degree of seriousness that it deserves. It is about time they did.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAY Arabic daily Monday discussed the planned American-Kuwaiti military exercises, accusing the Bush administration of trying to reassert itself and ensure a second term in office for the president through more adventures abroad. President Bush is intent on pursuing all efforts and plots aimed at toppling Saddam Hussein. His actions give the American public the impression of a race between him and the Iraqi president towards winning the November elections, said the daily. In trying to confront Saddam Hussein and Bill Clinton, Mr. Bush is trying to launch a new adventure abroad, to commit more atrocities like destroying factories, roads, bridges, mosques and churches as well as water and electric power installations, added the daily. It said that the present preparations on the part of the enemies of the Arab Nation should offer the Arabs a chance to rediscover their real enemies and should prompt them to join forces in the face of common threats. The paper said that the Iraqis are facing the new aggression or threats of aggression with dignity and honour, unlike their adversaries who are launching shameful acts. It said that Mr. Bush's last for more killings and more atrocities is motivated by the desire to sit in the oval office for a second term. BY THE end of the summer, the Arab and Israeli negotiators will have embarked on yet another round of talks in the bilateral and the multilateral levels of the peace process, said Sawt Al Shaab daily. But, the paper noted, Mr. Rabin's recent statements about the prospects of peace, to be achieved in exchange for land, do not give any cause for optimism as was displayed by president Bush and the European Community leaders. Indeed, for the Arabs, Mr. Rabin and his declared policies do not represent a novelty in the long-term Israeli strategies and practices, said the paper. It said that Mr. Rabin's settlement programmes, which Mr. Shamir had planted as an obstacle to the peace process, are not altogether deplored by Mr. Rabin, nor is the new prime minister of Israel clear about the exchange of land for peace in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Mr. Rabin is not making any substantial changes that would be really different from the Shamir government's strategies, despite the fact that the peace process was originally based on the implementation of U.N. resolutions and despite the Arab parties' open declaration of their desire to reach peace, the paper pointed out.

# U.S.'s selective pursuit of noble objectives

By Pascal B. Karmy

The well-known writer and journalist Erskine Childers wrote the following: "The mendacious claim by western leaders that their demands at the United Nations 'the support of the whole international community' recalls the days of Europe's feudal barons. They too would warn their serfs to behave, to accept conscription into the barons' new war, or be deprived of seeds, medicaments, the very means of livelihood. And the serfs knew the local lord could be told not to lend anyone displacing the baron. But the rich lords always claimed in royal councils that the peasants were loyal and contented. And then one day, the peasants revolted." (Jordan Times July 4, 1992).

It may be recalled that at the inception of the United Nations and for a long time thereafter, the U.S. was dominant in the organisation and could steer the policy of the member states and therefore their vote in the General Assembly or in the Security Council. For example, it was due to the great pressure from the United States administration, exerted on the small member states,

that the General Assembly Resolution 181 (II) on the partition of Palestine was passed on November 29, 1947. This pressure is simply and fairly described by the American Jewish author Alfred Lilienthal in his book titled "What Price Israel".

With the increase of the number of the new independent states in the 1960s, as members of the United Nations, and the progressive influence of the then Soviet Union, which had supported them financially and militarily in their struggle against colonialism, U.S. influence waned and could no longer wield the same power in the United Nations as it did previously. Indeed many of those new states adopted a more or less non-aligned policy.

This waning influence was particularly felt in the U.N. General Assembly where there is no veto right as in the Security Council. Thus it happened that many resolutions were often passed against the opposing votes of the U.S. and even of the western states. As a result, the U.S. Congress voiced concern over this development and consequently

stopped or reduced its contributions to the United Nations' budget until, they said, administrative and financial reforms would be introduced in the United Nations. Moreover, the U.S. cared less and less for the United Nations deliberations, very often exercised the right of veto in the Security Council and some of the American leaders treated the United Nations with contempt.

With the demise of the Soviet Union it appears that the situation, as far as the United Nations is concerned, reverted somewhat to the status ante 1940s and 1950s. Power is again concentrated mainly in the U.S., as the virtual head of the new world order which was first mentioned in President Bush's speech delivered on March 5, 1991 in the aftermath of the Gulf war. On another occasion, he declared that the approaching new century will be another American century. The western powers generally follow the lead of the U.S. Russia, which has occupied the seat of the ex-Soviet Union in the Security Council will not oppose the U.S. as it is in dire need of

financial assistance to enable it to stand on its feet. Already the U.S. and the western powers have poured billions of dollars into the Russian coffers, and the other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Thus, the so-called new world order is in effect dominated by the U.S. as the sole superpower. In the absence of a counter weight power, such as the European Community or Japan or China, it is feared that this new world order might become despotic and impose virtually a new colonialism over weaker and poorer states.

The U.S. and its western allies are now trying to impose market economy on Third World countries although the special circumstances of some of them do not allow them to absorb such economy (witness for example the confusion reigning in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the enormous difficulties met by them in their endeavour to apply the principles of market economy). The imposition of market economy, as being the only valid economy contra-dicts the need for pluralism by

certain economic and social societies as each society has its own particular circumstances and requirements and its specific culture. Yet, if some countries do not adopt market economy, they will be harassed and subjected through the World Bank or the IMF, both of which are dominated mainly by the U.S. for instance, no financial assistance will be considered, no loans will be granted and the scheduling of debts will be refused.

It is true that the U.S. seeks to disseminate in Third World countries principles of democracy and liberalism. These are indeed desirable and laudable objectives but the U.S. is very often selective in its pursuit of those objectives. On the one hand, it supports and encourages the application of those principles in one country, but keeps quiet with regard to another which is ruled by a non-democratic regime or even by a despotic one.

The Palestinians have suffered from this selective policy, favouring Israel, whenever a complaint was raised in the United Nations. During the summit meeting of the members of the Security Council held on January 31, 1992, King Hassan of Morocco told the participants: "We cannot visualise the establishment of a new world order while the Arab World is still suffering from a tragedy which has endured for almost fifty years namely the tragedy of the Palestinian people who is deprived from exercising his national rights, who is in the diaspora and whose history and identity are being obliterated."

# Scythe of death cuts through Somalia

By Reid G. Miller  
The Associated Press

BAIDAO, Somalia — Huge eyes stared blankly from the wizened faces of the doomed, the very young and very old who would die this day or the next of starvation and illness.

"That one there, and that one. They will die. It's too late to save them."

The words came unemotionally from Anita Ennis, 33, an Irish nurse, as she pointed at two tiny victims of war and drought at a feeding center in Baidao, central Somalia.

Ms. Ennis has seen a lot of death, and steels herself against it.

But there is anger in her, anger at what she sees as a tardy, inadequate response by the rest of the world to the tragedy engulfing Somalia.

By U.N. estimate, 1.5 million people are in imminent risk of dying of hunger in Somalia and 4.5 million more are near the edge of starvation.

That means virtually everyone

in this largely desert nation in the Horn of Africa has fallen victim to a disaster predicted by U.N. and other experts as long as 10 months ago. Yet only on July 27 did the U.N. Security Council authorise massive relief, and it will take weeks for the aid to start flowing.

The Security Council acted only after Secretary General Boutros Ghali chastised it for focusing too much on "a rich man's war" in Yugoslavia.

Nobody can say how many people have died in Somalia, but Peter Stocker of the International Committee of the Red Cross puts the number in the hundreds of thousands. Total deaths in Yugoslavia are reported to be at least 17,500, possibly up to three or four times that.

Mr. Stocker, U.N. officials and others say they cannot give a precise figure for Somalia, or even a good rough estimate, because clan warfare has kept them out of large parts of the stricken country.

All agree, however, that the tragedy is approaching the scale of the famine that killed more

**"Virtually everyone in this largely desert nation in the Horn of Africa has fallen victim to a disaster predicted by U.N. and other experts as long as 10 months ago."**

than 1 million people in Ethiopia in 1984-85.

It already is proportionately bigger. Ethiopia has a population of about 50 million, many times that of Somalia.

"The difference here is that we don't have any rock stars singing about it," said Mohammad Saboun, the U.N. special envoy to Somalia.

He referred to a globally televised concert that helped focus international attention on the Ethiopian crisis and brought an outpouring of donations.

If the full scope of Somalia's tragedy cannot be known, it can be seen in Baidao, once an agricultural centre of 60,000, now peopled mostly by the displaced and hungry.

Dr. Siad Aden, 38, a native of Baidao who works for the U.N. Children's Fund, said 300 to 500 people were dying daily in and around the town, most of them children and the elderly.

"This is not the Baidao I knew," Dr. Aden said. "It is a city of graves and refugees."

Most permanent residents fled when former President Mohamed Siad Barre and the remnants

of his army occupied the city a year ago.

Mr. Barre and his men were chased out of Mogadishu, the capital, by rebels of the United Somali Congress in January 1991, but continued a hit-and-run war in the central, southern and western regions of the country.

Rebel soldiers caught up with Mr. Siad Barre in April, forced him out of Baidao and pushed him and his men westward Kenya. The former dictator finally fled across the border and took sanctuary briefly in Nairobi before being granted political asylum in Nigeria.

The Red Cross began flying food to Baidao two months ago, but hardly enough. Hundreds of new people walk, stagger or crawl to the city every day. About 40,000 have arrived since Mr. Siad Barre fled.

"Every morning, we find eight to 10 bodies outside the gates of every one of the 22 feeding centres," said Ms. Ennis, one of two nurses working in Baidao for Concern, an Irish charity. "I counted 17 yesterday just along the path I take to work. There are

bodies in the bush and on the roads leading into town; people who couldn't get this far. And we know that people die in their huts and homes and we never see them."

They also die in the feeding centres, each of which serves more than 1,000 people up to four times a day, depending on need.

As Ms. Ennis spoke, a wall came from a corner of the open grounds of the U.N.-sponsored Isba centre. A child had died.

"That makes five today," she said.

Food is not the only thing lacking in Baidao. Before they left, Mr. Siad Barre's men wrecked the water supply and the electrical system, ripped the tin roofs from nearly all the buildings and stripped the town bare.

A U.N. technical team arrived a few weeks ago to assess Baidao's needs. "A technical team" Ms. Ennis exclaimed. "My God, we don't need a survey we want help now — food, water, seeds. "God, we need so much and we need it now."

## New York's Metropolitan exhibits Islamic art of Spain

By Joanne L. Nix

WASHINGTON — A historic exhibition of Islamic art has opened at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. It is the first large-scale attempt to bring Spain's rich Islamic heritage to the American public.

The exhibition, "Al Andalus: The Art of Islamic Spain," which opened July 2 and will run through September 27, has been described by the news magazine "Time" as "the best introduction of Spanish Islamic civilisation ever set before a general audience by a museum."

The exhibition traces the influence of Islam from 711 A.D., when Arabs and Berbers crossed the Strait of Gibraltar and began to establish a Muslim empire on the Iberian Peninsula, to 1492 and the surrender of Mohammed XII of Granada to Ferdinand V of Aragon and Isabella of Castile. "Al Andalus" is the Arab word for Spain.

Not much Islamic art survived the Christian era after the 16th century. Much of the bronze and gold of that era was melted down, jewels removed from their settings, manuscripts burned, textiles left to rot, and pottery smashed.

To present the largely overlooked Islamic culture and chronicle its influence on European history, the organisers of the exhibit brought together for the first time masterpieces of the Spanish Islamic tradition now in collections throughout Europe, Russia, North Africa, the Middle East, and the United States. Featured are approximately 100 works of art from 14 countries and nearly 60 institutions, including Spain's museums, monasteries, and cathedral treasures.

A larger version of "Al Andalus" was shown last year in Spain at the Alhambra — a complex of hills, palaces, gardens, fortifications, towers and royal chambers on a windy hill overlooking Granada. The show was the first exhibition ever to take place among the corridors and courtyards of the Alhambra, and the

first exhibition organised abroad by The Metropolitan Museum. Mahrukh Tarapor, assistant director of The Metropolitan Museum, and Metropolitan Director Philippe de Montebello headed the Spanish and American team of museum directors, conservators and more than 20 scholars that organised the shows in Granada and in New York.

This exhibition, which was five years in the making, says Mr. de Montebello, "bears witness to the brilliant Islamic culture that was a preeminent force on the Iberian Peninsula."

Mr. de Montebello described Spain's Islamic era as "an imprint whose influence was felt as far away as Northern Europe and the New World before the fragmentation and dispersal of a unique artistic culture. Only now can we begin fully to explore this magnificent Islamic legacy."

It was Mahrukh Tarapor's idea to open "Al Andalus" in the Alhambra. "In 1987 the Spanish minister of culture was at the Metropolitan," she said. "I showed him the Islamic galleries and pointed out that we don't have much (Islamic art) from Spain. That's how it began."

"It is not an easy thing to get a national monument to house an exhibition of art created for it," said Ms. Tarapor. "This exhibition happened because the time was right."

More than 300,000 tourists visited the Alhambra exhibition in Granada last spring, she said. Since its opening July 2 in New York, the Metropolitan exhibition of "Al Andalus" has attracted more than 3,000 visitors a day.

Although the Alhambra setting could not be duplicated in New York, representative architecture and sculpture have recreated the palace's atmosphere in the Metropolitan.

"Important manuscripts were donated from Morocco, Egypt and Turkey," Ms. Tarapor reported. "The most imposing object, in terms of scale and size, was a magnificent 10th century alabaster basin from Marakesh. It had been made in Cordoba and subsequently transported to Morocco," she explained.

From the great Mosque in Fez came two magnificent bell lamps weighing more than 800 kilograms. "They were captured from Christian churches and taken to Morocco during the 11th or 12th century. There they were converted into mosque lamps," Ms. Tarapor said.

Other memorable objects are an 11th-century four-legged bronze griffin riddled with bullet holes, which was discovered in Pisa, Italy, and a 14th century Alhambra vase with handles like angel wings.

The finest achievements in ivory workmanship from the early centuries of Islamic rule under the Umayyad Dynasty are on display. There are opulent textiles, arms and armour, whose designs were later copied in churches and synagogues, and a pendant with the inscription "Ave Maria Gracia Plena," illustrating the intercultural aspect of Islamic Spain, especially during the later years of Muslim rule.

Two editions of a 464-page catalogue, in English and in Spanish, published by the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Ediciones El Viso, Madrid, accompany the exhibition. There will also be a documentary video that will be distributed worldwide.

Organised by New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Patronato of the Alhambra and Generalife, under the joint patronage of the Junta de Andalucia, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ayuntamiento of Granada, the exhibit was sponsored by Banco Bilbao Vizcaya. Additional support came from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, the U.S. National Endowment of the Humanities and the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities — United States Information Agency (USIA).

## Islamic presence, influence growing in U.S.

By M. C. Jaspersen

WASHINGTON — The influence of Islam and Muslims continues to grow in the United States, but the American Muslims must be more active in promoting the understanding of Islam within the country, according to two Islamic-American leaders.

Vincent Joseph Cornell, assistant professor of religion and Islamic Studies at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, who is a convert to Islam, and Imam Wallace Deen Mohammad, a spokesman for Human Salvation, discussed Islam in America during two recent USA-sponsored teleconferences with Dhaka and Islamabad.

"One of the problems of our community overall, in terms of political effectiveness, is that we are a very dispersed, diffuse community. There aren't very many communities... or many cities in America where Muslims comprise a significant part of the population," Mr. Cornell said.

"In American interest group politics, you're only important if you have a large enough number (of members) to affect elections of officials," Mr. Cornell said. He then noted that "one group of Muslims is becoming very influential, and that is the African-American Muslim community that is united behind Imam Wallace Deen Mohammad."

It is thanks to his efforts, Mr. Cornell added, "that for the first time... I think we really have the opportunity to affect the political outlook of certain communities in many, many ways."

He pointed out that the influential Jewish community in the United States "tends to be concentrated numerically in major centres of population," such as New York City, Los Angeles, and because of their strong concentrations in these areas, "they can be very influential" in the entire country.

On the subject of anti-Muslim prejudice on the part of some Americans, Mr. Cornell blamed both "a complex world" and the lack of understanding by Americans of other cultures, as well as

a lack of balanced media coverage.

Nonetheless, Mr. Cornell said there are changes in perception occurring. "The influences are incremental influences. I can't really say that they are major yet."

He cited Bosnia as an example of a Muslim community which has made a difference in influencing perceptions and politics. The large Bosnian Muslim community in Chicago has heightened awareness of the problems in Bosnia to such a point, Mr. Cornell said, that presidential candidate Bill Clinton "has actually made a statement about Bosnia, in which, for the first time, he said that he could foresee a situation in which American troops would go into Bosnia to save the Bosnians, and particularly the Muslims of Bosnia, from massacre by the Serbs."

To understand what makes a difference in U.S. thinking, Mr. Cornell said one must remember that "politics in America is a numbers game. You really have to have the numbers (of people) to have the influence. If there is a constituency in the United States of voters who are big enough to be noticed by people in power, then their ideas will be listened to," Mr. Cornell added.

Imam Mohammad argued, however, that "you can still have good influence, wide influence" even though your numbers are not great, "if you join with other small groups to create a broader base."

"I am hopeful that indigenous Muslims, blacks, African-Americans will join more" with other groups, Imam Mohammad said. "We are improving our relationships and are working with nationalists from India, from Pakistan, and other places outside of America who are Muslims — in Chicago and L.A. (Los Angeles) and other cities around the country."

"We are getting involved, more and more, in the question of what should be the role of Muslims in

American politics. We are discussing the problem of people suffering in Kashmir, and other parts of the world, especially Palestine," Imam Mohammad added.

He said he is convinced that Muslims can make a difference in American society: "I do believe that Muslim influence can be felt... that we will have some influence on foreign policy."

Mr. Cornell agreed that Muslims are beginning to be listened to, but added that "the important thing, I think, is that we are becoming active, and Muslim groups are getting together — and see the necessity of becoming active — as Islam is more firmly established in America."

Mr. Cornell noted that one reason for erroneous American perceptions about Muslims is its geographic isolation from much of the rest of the world. "America is a huge country. (It) comprises most of a continent (with) about 250 million people, and it's separated from the rest of the world by two monstrous oceans."

But the negative attitudes create "a cultural problem," he said. "It comes from a lack of understanding on the part of many Americans that there are other alternatives out there."

Summing up his concern for prejudice, wherever it may be, Mr. Cornell emphasised, "I have always felt that the greatest enemy to world peace is ignorance."

He also suggested that to gain a sympathetic ear, Muslims ought to take much more deliberate steps. As an example of a serious effort to gain public support, he cited Kuwaiti action prior to the coalition drive to push Iraq out of Kuwait. Mr. Cornell pointed out that Kuwait hired one of the most prestigious public relations firms in America to influence the American public to back the coalition forces against Saddam Hussein.

In short, Mr. Cornell added, "Muslims haven't taken advantage of the market of ideas" — United States Information Agency (USIA).

بازار الحلال







## Homentmen Lebanon ends visit after winning 6 of 8 games in Jordan

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The men's and women's basketball teams of Lebanon's Homentmen Club ended their week-long visit to Jordan Sunday during which they won six of eight matches they played against Al Orthodoxi, Al Jazireh and their host, Homentmen Amman.

In the last matches they played before leaving for Beirut, Homentmen's women's team scored an overwhelming victory of 80-29 over Al Jazireh, while Al Jazireh won the men's match in the final seconds 85-84.

Homentmen Lebanon won the women's match depending on their coordination and superior teamwork which enabled them to build a commanding lead and play an interesting match. Although Al Jazireh's younger players were clearly no match for the visiting team, they nevertheless put up a big effort to minimise the difference but to no avail.

Al Jazireh led 7-4 in the sixth minute. From then on Homentmen took the lead and went on to score depending mainly on short and fast passes which exhausted Al Jazireh's defence and caused them to commit many defensive fouls. Mireille Adjemian received excellent support from teammates especially playmaker Taline Papazian and scored the most in the first half. Al Jazireh could not score for 11 minutes as Homentmen won the first half 38-12.

Al Jazireh improved their play in the second half as Tamara Al Khadra and Hala Muheisen scored, especially after Homentmen lost the efforts of key player Viviane Sarkisian who was out with five fouls.

After a series of fast breaks and effective rebounding by Aline Chalian, Homentmen widened the gap to 51-19 and 62-23. Al Jazireh tried to coordinate their play to catch up but Homentmen's fast attacking play in the final two minutes enabled Gassia Khacharian and Vartout Markarian to score as the visiting team won the match 80-29.

The score in the men's match was very much closer as both teams played a fast match that kept the attending 200 fans captivated and waiting until the last second to know the winner.

Both teams were tied at 10-10 in the sixth minute, however Al Jazireh got the lead after Jamal Al Bubeiri played as they led 20-14 and 26-20 in the 13th minute. With amazing rebounds and follow ups by Vicken Eskijian, Homentmen caught up and took the lead after a time out. They were leading 35-30 in the final three minutes of the first half but a lot of personal fouls on most players and no effective reserves enabled Al Jazireh to catch up as Naser Darwish scored and ended the first half 38-37 for Al Jazireh.

Al Jazireh led 47-44 before Homentmen scored 12 consecutive points to take the lead 56-47 in the seventh minute.

Al Jazireh's Ghaith Ennabi and Samer Zamaniri scored as Al Jazireh caught up at 61-58. Homentmen's Jack Nalbadian scored six consecutive points to push Homentmen to the lead 73-69 with six minutes remaining.

Homentmen's Khajag Baghdadian scored as Homentmen had the lead at 80-77 before Baghdadian, who led his team's fast attacks, was fouled out with less than two minutes remaining.

Al Jazireh's Naser Darwish scored four points as Al Jazireh regained the lead at 81-80. Homentmen's Levon Sermejian scored two points while key guard Vicken Eskijian was also fouled out. Al Jazireh's Darwish scored a free throw to lead 83-82. Sermejian again scored two free throws to take Homentmen's lead to 84-83 with 27 seconds remaining. The match became a battle of nerves. Homentmen missed a shot and Al Jazireh scored a point to win the match 85-84.

In a post match statement to the Jordan Times Homentmen's head coach Hagop Khacharian said: "There's a big difference of level of competition among the teams we played during our stay. I think most teams depended on the individual skills of a few players and not the all-round play of a cohesive team."

Commenting on the women's match against Al Jazireh, Khacharian said: "We were able to adapt to all kinds of defensive tactics they applied but they couldn't adapt to our attacking tactics."

The visiting team had defeated Al Orthodoxi's women 78-50 and lost the men's match 89-63. They beat Homentmen Amman's teams twice with the women winning 44-18 and 56-16 and the men winning 56-47 and 77-44.

## Christie throws down gauntlet to Lewis for relay showdown



BARCELONA (Agencies) — Jackie Joyner-Kersey cruised to Olympic supremacy and proved she was the greatest all-round woman athlete in history.

Linford Christie, the new 100-metres Olympic champion, said he wanted to be the greatest sprinter the world has ever seen and would Carl Lewis kindly step forward and allow him to prove it.

Medals table  
BARCELONA (R) — Olympics medals table after the seventh day of competition Saturday (tabulated: Gold, silver, bronze):

Team	G	S	B
CIS	32	22	20
United States	17	19	18
Germany	14	10	19
China	10	15	8
Hungary	10	7	2
Australia	6	8	6
South Korea	6	2	4
Spain	5	0	0
Italy	4	5	7
France	4	4	12
Romania	4	4	6
Britain	4	3	3
Canada	4	1	5
Japan	3	7	7
Poland	3	4	6
Cuba	3	2	5
Czechoslovakia	2	2	1
Turkey	2	1	1
Bulgaria	1	4	1
New Zealand	1	2	3
Norway	1	2	0
Brazil	1	1	0
North Korea	1	0	1
Estonia	1	0	0
Greece	1	0	0
Sweden	0	4	3
Netherlands	0	2	5
Belgium	0	1	2
Yugoslavia	0	1	1
Israel	0	1	1
Latvia	0	1	0
Austria	0	1	0
Jamaica	0	1	0
Namibia	0	1	0
Peru	0	1	0
Slovenia	0	0	2
Denmark	0	0	1
Finland	0	0	1
Mongolia	0	0	1
Surinam	0	0	1

Note: Two gold medals were awarded in the women's vault gymnastics. Two bronze medals awarded in judo finals. The bronze total of the CIS has been amended after lightweight weightlifter Ibragim Samadov was stripped of his medal.

"It's my time now. He's had his moment" Christie insisted Sunday as he threw down the gauntlet to the American world record holder.

A showdown between the 32-year-old Briton and Lewis is on the cards for the Barcelona Games — American Mark Witherspoon's torn achilles tendon could bring the world champion into the U.S. men's relay team for an anchor-leg clash in next Saturday's 4x100 metres final.

U.S. head track coach Mel Rosen said: "There's a good chance now that Carl Lewis will run the relay."

But Christie signalled he was ready for battle anywhere with the man who beat him in Seoul four years ago but failed to win selection for the U.S. sprint team in Barcelona.

"I'll be in Zurich, Cologne and Berlin," said Christie, at 32 the oldest Olympic 100-metres champion. "If he wants to find me, he knows where I am... we'll meet before the end of the season."

The Olympic 200 metres title is widely regarded as a formality for American Michael Johnson but Christie proclaimed: "I'm going out to win. I'll be going just as hard as I did in the 100."

Joyner-Kersey strolled through the final day of the heptathlon to become the first athlete to scoop a second consecutive gold in the seven-discipline event. The 30-year-old American won with 7,044 points and said she planned to continue until the 1996 Atlanta Games.

"I would like to finish my career on American soil," she said.

The busiest day of the games — 30 gold medals were at stake — saw a series of firsts.

Belorussian Vitaly Shcherbo also wrote himself into history books. Competing with the CIS team, he became the most successful gymnast at one Olympics by taking his gold medal tally to six in the apparatus finals.

Pae Gil-Sa took North Korea's first Olympic title since 1976, while high bar winner Trent Dimas made his name as the first American gymnast for 60 years to win gold at a games unaffected by boycotts.

Javier Sotomayor won Cuba's first Olympic athletics title since 1980 in a high jump competition in which the first five competitors tied on the same height for the first time.

The CIS took the other two golds at stake, with Andrei Abduvaliyev leading a medals sweep in the hammer and world silver medalist Elena Romanova timing her final sprint to perfection in the women's 3,000 metres.

Britain's Jonathan and Greg Searle pulled off the rowing upset of the Olympic Regatta, denying Italy a third straight men's coxed pairs title. Romania collected five medals on the last day of racing.

Italy won their first Olympic road race cycling crown for 24 years when the least-known member of their trio, Fabio Casaratti, managed to burst to



Gail Devers of the United States celebrates her victory in the women's 100 metre sprint at the Olympic Games

the front in the last 200 metres. South Korea's Cho Yoon-Jeong added the Olympic women's archery title to her three world records and beat team mate Kim Soo-Nyung, the Seoul gold medalist, into second place.

Both burst into tears afterwards. It was an unhappy day for Olympic champion Paul Ereng. The Kenyan finished eighth and last in his 800 metres semifinal.

The eighth day of competition saw the CIS heading the medals table with 32 golds. The United States was second with 17.

Meanwhile the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said Monday all 1,049 drug tests of athletes conducted at the summer games, including 100-metre sprinters, have been negative.

"As of this morning there is no positive test," IOC official Michele Verber, told reporters, citing a report from the IOC Medical Commission.

The tests covered all competitions through Saturday, including the men's and women's 100-metre dashes. After she finished fourth in the women's 100, U.S. sprinter Gwen Torrence alleged that two of the top three finishers were on drugs. All three medalists denied the accusation.

On Monday, silver medalist Juliet Cuthbert of Jamaica said Torrence approached her at the practice track Monday before the preliminary round of the 200-metre sprint and told her "she wasn't referring to me."

"She came to me, probably because she heard I was going to confront her," Cuthbert said. "I think it's very unfair. She basically tarished my name... I've earned my silver medal."

Gail Devers was the U.S. gold medalist in the 100 metres and Irina Privalova of the Unified Team the bronze medalist.

Cuthbert's teammate, Merlene Ottey, the fifth-place finisher in the 100 metres Saturday, said Torrence probably made the accusations because she didn't win a medal.

"She's just jealous," Ottey said. "She's a sore loser."

Steffi Graf clinched the first tennis medal, moving into the semifinals with a 6-1, 6-0 rout of Belgium's Sabine Appelmans. Graf, the no. 1 women's seed, is the defending Olympic champion.

"I've really been playing well," she said. "And today I hit the lines I don't know how many times. I was lucky."

No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, the top remaining men's seed, survived a nearly 4½-hour five-set marathon with Fabrice Santoro of France to reach the semifinals and a guaranteed medal.

Ivanisevic lost the first two sets in tiebreakers and fell behind 5-2 in the third set before recovering and taking the decisive fifth set 8-6.

China's women finished 1-2 in the table tennis doubles. Deng Yaping and Qiao Hong defeated Chen Zine and Gao Jun, 21-13, 14-21, 21-14, 21-19, for the gold, while teams from political rivals North and South Korea shared the bronze.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 4, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carol Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This won't be a day when you can pull everything of a basic nature into the excellent shape you would like it to be in. Home, property, family and possessions require your attention.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) It is not the time to get upset about some messages from a distance or from those of different viewpoints to your own for you could make a big mistake.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are apt to be led into some material condition that is not at all to your advantage so study carefully whatever plans come to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Separation from any associates now could have estrangement lasting adverse effects at intermittent periods so avoid any discussions that may occur.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't take a private anxiety to work you and make sure to keep apart those connected with your duties and your private existence.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A contention between your attachment and a good friend could cause much tension and strain so make sure that you keep them apart today and tonight.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You find some new condition very appealing to you but before you get into this in anyway finish

pending duties or you could have some real trouble.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you have in mind pertaining to an obligation due another should be carried through despite your fear it may downgrade your security.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You need to be most exact in stating facts to a money conscious person and do not yield to the desire to be critical, feel it is demeaning to your pride.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You cannot seem to pin a partner down to a course of action that you feel to be imperative and you need to do so with much adroitness instead of in a demanding manner.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You feel too tied down to your usual duties and outlets and you want to break out and upset a present condition but would be going from a frying pan into the fire.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A friend who puts down most everything you want to do sees too many flaws in your plan for recreation but pay no heed to his pessimism.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take some time out to get conditions rearranged as you wish them to be at your residence despite some pressing condition in the outside world.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CASIB  
TUSIE  
NARTTY  
YOGAVE

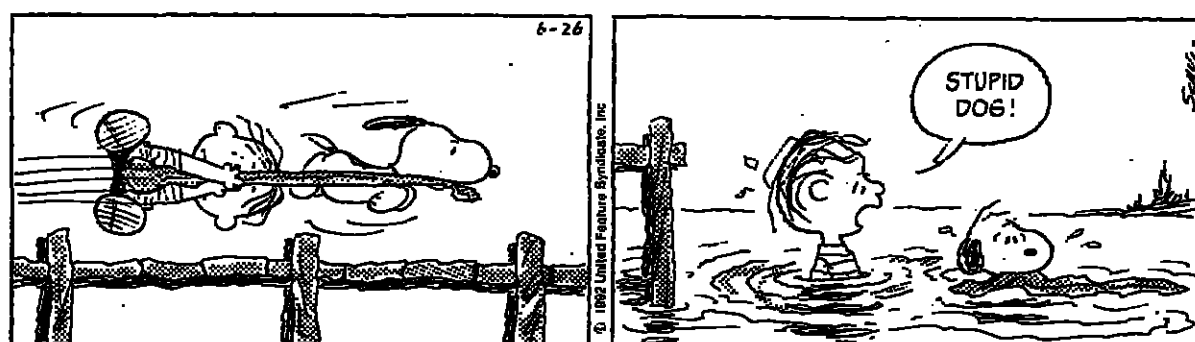


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "POINTER - POINTERS" (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: NOOSE ANKLE MYSTIC BEPCS  
Answer: Giving him a pen to play with, at his age, would be this — POINTLESS

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMAR HIRSCH  
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### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A4 ♣KQ72 ♣AQ96 ♠74  
The bidding has proceeded:  
East South West North  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣  
2 ♣ ?  
What action do you take?

Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A10 ♣10 ♠A8 ♣KQJ9843  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
2 ♣ 4 ♣ 4 ♣ Pass  
What do you bid now?

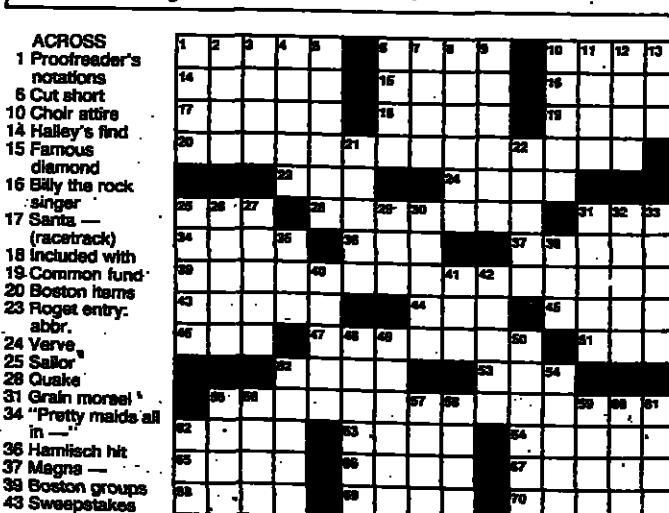
Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠Q108654 ♣AQ ♠A ♣Q963  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass  
2 ♣ ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠K63 ♣AQJ85 ♠A4 ♠1082  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass  
2 ♣ ?  
What action do you take?

Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A4 ♣QJ9873 ♠8 ♠AJ1054  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠AQ ♣A7 ♠A42 ♠AJ10964  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
3 ♣ ?  
What do you bid now?

## THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin



ACROSS  
1 Proofreader's notation  
6 Cut short  
10 Choir attire  
14 Halley's find  
15 Famous diamond  
16 Billy the rock singer  
17 Santa (recreation)  
18 Included with  
19 Common fund  
20 Boston team  
21 Forget entry: abor.  
24 Verve  
25 Saker  
28 Quake  
31 Grain measure  
34 "Pretty maid" all  
36 Hamish hit  
37 Magna  
38 Boston groups  
43 Sweepstakes game  
44 "A Boy Named Sue"  
45 Cooked through  
46 Merino man  
47 Moved back  
51 Beauty or Burling  
52 Milan model  
53 Family member  
54 Polaris  
56 Location  
57 Young eat  
58 G-mat  
59 Off (angry)  
70 Reagan's attorney general  
33 Burdened  
36 Humor  
38 Tack on  
40 Westwheel  
41 Flop  
42 Baseball's Pee Wee  
43 Aquarium  
44 Denizen  
48 Mr. Bonhomme  
49 Gaffer's side  
50 Cyprian  
52 French city  
54 Bean  
55 Nastase of tennis  
56 Sell  
57 Refer to  
58 Orchestra member  
59 Improve a road  
60 Angers  
61 Bronx's Jane  
62 Away

Financial Markets			
Jordan Times in cooperation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE	
U.S. Dollar	1.9275	1.9275	
Deutsche Mark	1.4745	1.4761	
Swiss Franc	1.5160	1.5143	
French Franc	4.9800	4.9816	
Japanese Yen	127.10	127.25	
European Currency Unit	1.3825	1.3820	
Eurocurrency Interest Rates			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH
U.S. Dollar	3.37	3.37	3.37
Deutsche Mark	10.18	10.18	10.18
Swiss Franc	9.68	9.75	9.81
French Franc	8.37	8.43	8.51
Japanese Yen	10.12	10.25	10.31
European Currency Unit	4.06	4.00	3.84
Japanese Yen	10.93	10.93	10.93
Precious Metals			
Gold	357.50	6.65	Silver
Platinum	5.94	0.890	
Other Currencies			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH
U.S. Dollar	0.668	0.670	0.670
Deutsche Mark	1.2857	1.2921	1.2921
Swiss Franc	0.4520	0.4543	0.4543
French Franc	0.5075	0.5100	0.5100
Japanese Yen	0.1339	0.1346	0.1346
Dutch Guilder	0.5247	0.5253	0.5253
Scandinavian Kron	0.4010	0.4030	0.4030
Swedish Kron	0.1245	0.1251	0.1251
Italian Lira	0.0598	0.0601	0.0601
Belgian Franc	0.02192	0.02203	0.02203
CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market			
Index	1/18/92	Close	2/18/92
All-Share	140.07	140.09	140.09
Banking Sector	101.97	102.31	102.31
Insurance Sector	150.97	150.44	150.44
Industry Sector	192.69	192.14	192.14
Services Sector	182.27	183.13	183.13

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
AMMAN BANK GROUP - AMMAN - JORDAN			
AMMAN BANK GROUP SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 03/08/1992			
COMPANY NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN BANK GROUP	1,802	1.840	1.830
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	4,613	2.050	2.050
UNION BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	1,150	2.000	2.000
AMMAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	2,305	2.000	2.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1,675	2.860	2.860
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	790	3.160	3.160
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	84,630	1.270	1.260
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/NEW	3,359	1.070	1.070
NATIONAL SECURITIES INVESTMENT	9,772	3.190	3.190
AMMAN BANKING INVESTMENT FOR MONDAY	270,224	3.550	3.540
AMMAN BANK	11,300	113.000	113.000
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	620	2.460	2.460
ROYAL LAND INSURANCE	3,543	3.000	3.000
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	3,914	1.260	1.260
AMMAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	229,553	4.370	4.440
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	11,018	3.380	3.380
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE	1,854	2.350	2.350
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSTRUCTION HOTELS	531,342	1.640	1.620
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	1,093	0.270	0.270
JORDANIAN EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	3,060	1.010	1.020
AMMAN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT	97,061	0.990	0.990
JORDAN GOLF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	22,279	0.690	0.710
AMMAN PAPER CONVERSION & TRADING	10,993	1.530	1.520
JORDAN DAIRY	1,474	2.500	2.460
AMMAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	120,168	7.790	7.750
AMMAN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES	18,153	9.250	9.200
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	15,098	5.820	5.840
AMMAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,048	21.800	21.350
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	118,293	4.440	4.480
AMMAN ALUMINUM DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	4,490	6.750	6.700
JORDANIAN PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	14,431	3.400	3.400
JORDAN WOODS MILLS	16,635	7.800	7.800
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	10,995	4.700	4.700
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	2,225	0.740	0.740
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	15,300	5.000	5.100
JORDAN PROSPERITY MINES	423	3.480	3.480
JORDAN TANNING	713	4.480	4.750
AMMAN CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	275,958	3.200	3.170
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	1,445	0.880	0.880
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,025	4.120	4.100
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	15,163	13.250	13.200
ALADIN INDUSTRIES	938	3.800	3.750
MOULIN INDUSTRIES	733	1.630	1.620
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	1,080	1.100	1.080
SPINNING & WEAVING	27,452	2.800	2.810
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	16,519	6.450	6.360
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	237,494	3.640	3.600
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	72,908	1.250	1.250
JORDAN PORTLAND CEMENT INDUSTRIES	68,998	0.500	0.500
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	65,686	0.090	0.090
AMMAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	65,551	2.240	2.210
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	6,249	8.320	8.340
GRAND TOTAL	2,447,038		
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 1350			
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET : 30 1607			

## German firm to build power plant in Iran despite calls to place Germany on 'black list'

NICOSIA (R) — A radical Iranian paper has urged Iran to place Germany on a trade "black list" because of a German firm's failure to complete a nuclear power plant.

Jomhuri Eslami lambasted Siemens AG, whose subsidiary Kraft-Werk Union abandoned work on the power station after Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. A high-ranking Siemens delegation is currently visiting Iran.

"The Siemens company has so far refrained from performing its undertakings in this connection, each time resorting to unfounded pretexts," the Iranian News Agency IRNA quoted the paper as saying.

The paper criticised what it called the trade imbalance between Iran and Germany, saying that in 1991 they exchanged goods worth 8.2 billion marks (\$5.56 billion), 6.7 billion marks (\$4.55 billion) of which were German exports to Iran.

"It is not clear why we should conduct such an immense bulk of trade and industrial transactions with a country which is still imposing severe export restrictions on us," it said.

These calls went unheeded, however, and Siemens won a contract to build a power plant with a capacity of 1,400 megawatts in Iran's Free Trade Zone at Qeshm Island in the Gulf.

Under a letter of understanding, the gas-powered project would be built in four phases. Heat from the power plant would be used for desalinating the Gulf water for drinking, it said.

IRNA said both sides also agreed to manufacture jointly an unspecified range of electrical household items for marketing in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Demonstrators gathered in Tehran on Saturday to urge Siemens to finish the 80 per cent complete power station in the Gulf port of Bushehr.

Germany said last year it would not help complete the plant. No nuclear fuel was transferred to the site, which was attacked several times by Iraqi planes during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War.

## Albania's economic big bang fuels fear of social explosion

TIRANA, Albania (AP) — Ill-tempered crowds have emptied bread shops in the capital of Europe's poorest country, one day before tough reforms more than doubled the cost of Albania's dietary staple.

Chronic food shortages and low living standards have heightened fears of renewed social unrest like the food riots of last winter in which 45 people died.

Panic buying has already gripped towns and cities.

The governing Democratic Party plans to push ahead with price liberalisation that will more than double prices, despite crucial runoff elections at the local level Sunday.

The democrats, who trounced the Socialists — former Communists — in parliamentary elections in March, suffered heavy losses in the first round of local polling last weekend.

The Socialists' strong showing appeared to reflect popular discontent over the Democrats' failure to improve the economic situation in their four months of governing.

Bread shops in the capital Tirana, now protected by thick metal bars over the windows, were emptied within minutes of opening. Armed police kept their distance, only occasionally intervening to restore some order.

Ilir Lame, 17, pushed his way through crowds surrounding a bread shop and emerged with three characteristically huge, two-kilo loaves of bread.

Beaming, he explained that since hearing rumours of the price rises he had managed with friends to buy 15 loaves.

The price of bread is set to rise 5 U.S. cents to 12 cents. The average monthly wage is about 9 cents.

The elderly, lacking the strength to battle crowds to reach the small kiosk windows where bread is dispensed, could be left empty-handed.

Kesmie Celiku, 62, was unable to get bread.

The government intends to compensate workers in the state

sector by up to 2.60 per month.

But Violeta Librazda, a 32-year-old housewife, made clear that won't cover costs for most people. "I have calculated... that I need 1,600 leks (\$14.75) a month to survive if they increase any prices, and that is without eating meat or drinking coffee," she said.

The government has been secretive about the timing of price increases. Price controls on meat, cheese, milk and other goods were lifted without warning.

A senior foreign economic adviser to the Ministry of Finance and Economy, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the plan would go ahead.

"Of course, the government recognises the very real threat of riots that's why timing of the announcements are being handled very carefully," he said.

"I am very afraid bad things are going to happen now," said Vera Hasan, 35. "I fill my stomach everyday with bread. The other things I eat, tomatoes and onions, are little luxuries."

Albanians, whose word for bread, "buke," also means food, eat more bread than any other European people. Per capita consumption of bread a day is 630 grammes.

After the price reform, only five staples will still be subsidised. Prices of bread, sugar, cooking oil, rice and soap — all supplied almost entirely by aid — will be set at levels that just cover costs.

Subsidies to Albania's crippled industrial sector are also to be curtailed. Without state support, it is estimated that over 250,000 workers will be claiming recently introduced social assistance payments within one month.

The reforms are intended to balance Albania's budget deficit and restore some order to the wrecked economy. But critics in the Socialist Party accuse the government of acting prematurely and warn of a strong social and political backlash.

## UAE banks report higher profits

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) banks have weathered two financial storms and are expected to boost profits again this year after they surged in 1991, a bank study said.

In 1990, most of the UAE's banks suffered a decline in profits due to the Gulf crisis but the situation was reversed in 1991, the Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) study said.

"Profits made by national and foreign banks operating in the UAE witnessed substantial growth in 1991," the study said.

"Stability in the Gulf is bringing in a better period for banks, which will expand lending and develop services and investment instruments," the report said.

Banks which did not publish results are still emerging from the effects of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) scandal and the Gulf war, bankers said.

Net profits of 32 banks in the UAE plummeted to \$56 million (\$233 million) in 1990 from 1.36 billion dirhams (\$371.6 million) in 1989.

But they rose again in 1991 after the Gulf war ended in February and business picked up in the region.

"Bank liabilities have gone down and the quality of assets is better," said one UAE senior banker. "Also interest rates have come down making a net margin available to bankers."

Only 32 of the 47 banks operating in the UAE have published balance sheets for 1991. They show that profits rose but deposits and assets declined.

Eleven of the 19 local banks announced their profits jumped more than 100 per cent to 10.6 billion dirhams (\$288 million) in 1991 from \$138 million in 1990.

Twenty-one of the 28 foreign banks said profits rose 21 per cent to 275 million (\$374.9 million) in 1991 from 242 million (\$313 million) in 1990.

Gulf bankers said most banks had recovered from the Gulf crisis which triggered a rush for withdrawals from the region and capital flight of up to \$15 billion.

Despite the end of the war, the EIB study showed a drop in deposits to \$3.3 billion dirhams (\$22.6 billion) in 1991 from \$3.5 billion dirhams (\$22.7 billion) in 1990.

Assets also slipped to 115.5 billion dirhams (\$31.7 billion) from 117.3 billion dirhams (\$31.9 billion), the report said.

Some UAE banks suffered from a fall in profits in 1991 because they had deposits with the failed BCCI.

Union National Bank (UNB), formerly BCC-Emirates, has not published results but is expected to declare a profit for 1991 after 270 million compensation from Abu Dhabi, which had a 77 per cent stake in BCCI. Bankers say UNB is operating at a "comfortable level of 25 per cent liquidity."

Dubai Islamic Bank, which had an exposure to BCCI of less than \$100 million, has not yet published 1991 results but says the results could come this month.

## Major's popularity down due to recession

LONDON (R) — Less than four months after an election triumph, British Prime Minister John Major has another fight on his hands — overcoming a severe recession and doubts about his economic strategy.

Major's conservatives beat off a strong left-wing challenge in this year's general election, but the economic recession they pledged to combat has proved a formidable foe.

A predicted post-election boom fizzled briefly and then died, damaging confidence in Britain's economy, its currency, and the government's ability to manage a recovery.

The gloomy mood was reflected in an opinion poll on Sunday which showed the ruling Conservatives, suffering a popularity slump early in the fourth successive term.

In the survey by the Mori organisation, the opposition Labour Party with new leader John Smith had 43 per cent support. The Conservatives trailed on 39 per cent, several points less than they polled at the election.

The poll, published in the Sunday Times newspaper, showed that only 21 per cent of Britons expect the economy to improve over the next year, down from 28 per cent last month.

Dissenting voices have been heard among Major's Conservatives, whose unity is already sorely tested by arguments over the merits of the Maastricht Treaty on European union.

Critics say that any chances of helping the economy recover are hamstrung by Major's commitment to keeping Sterling within the European currency grid, the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM), on the current terms.

Major and his Finance Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont, have ruled out a devaluation of the pound.

They have dismissed fears that the recession, already the longest since World War II, could turn into a slump, and accuse critics of doom-mongering.

## Italy tries to lure back investors

ROME (R) — Beleaguered Premier Giuliano Amato, his hand strengthened by a major accord on wage reform and an austerity package, has appealed to foreign investors to stop fleeing Italian assets and the lira.

Worries about the economy, Amato's fragile government and fears of a devaluation have put the currency under heavy pressure in the past six weeks, forcing the Bank of Italy to intervene repeatedly.

The month-old government, which has a water-tight 16-seat majority in the lower house, received a precious shot in the arm on Friday with a major accord to end automatic wage indexation.

In an appeal launched the day before international markets have their first chance to react, Amato told state radio:

"The most important point for the Italian economy and for those who watch it from the international markets is that it must have a phase of tranquility (to allow us) to work, produce, and become competitive again."

Friday's accord buried the cornerstone of Italian labour relations since the 1950s, the so-called "scala mobile" system under which wages were increased in line with the cost of living.

Its abolition was the key platform of Amato's attempts to cut

inflation and reduce the budget deficit to keep up with European Community (EC) partners.

Business chiefs led by Cesare Romiti, managing director of Italy's largest private sector group Fiat, and Luigi Abete, president of the powerful Confindustria Employers' Group, said the time was ripe for an interest rate cut.

There had been speculation on financial markets on Friday that a wage accord would pave the way for a cut in the interest rate.

"The Bank of Italy and the banks mustn't wait for the international markets to act on this recovered trust, but they must act as if this trust was already gained," Abete said.

Asked about prospects for a rate cut, Amato answered: "To have interest rates on a par with those of European countries, we would need to align our budget deficit with (theirs). So we will need time."

"But to have a downward trend, it is enough to give more credibility to our system — Italy's public and private sector. It is enough to soothe the financial markets," Amato said.

Major and his Finance Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont, have ruled out a devaluation of the pound.

They have dismissed fears that the recession, already the longest since World War II, could turn into a slump, and accuse critics of doom-mongering.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
One Sterling	1.9225/35	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.8131/36	Canadian dollar	
	1.4765/75	Deutschmarks	
	1.3148/58	Swiss francs	
	30.30/34	Belgian francs	
	4.9870/920	French francs	
	1113/1114	Italian lire	
	127.18/23	Japanese yen	
	5.3610/60	Swedish crowns	
	5.8035/85	Norwegian crowns	
	5.6790/840	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	\$357.20/357.70		

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## Bush: Clinton health care would be KGB-like

CHICAGO (R) — President George Bush has charged that the government would run the U.S. health care system "with the complicity of the KGB" within a year if Democrat Bill Clinton were elected to replace him.

"Understand what's at stake here. If the governor of Arkansas is elected with a new Democratic congress," Mr. Bush said, "Within a year the government will run health care in this country."

Such a system would have the efficiency of the scandal-plagued post office in the House of Representatives and the complicity of the KGB," the Soviet secret police, he said.

Mr. Bush was campaigning in Illinois as polls continued to record his slide against Mr. Clinton and some people in conservative political circles called for him to pull out of the race for president.

An editorial in Sunday editions of the Orange County Register, a California newspaper that serves a traditionally ultra-conservative area, urged Mr. Bush to abandon his bid for reelection, and columnists such as conservative George Will have called for Mr. Bush to pull out.

But speaking at a fundraising brunch for Republican Senate candidate Rich Williamson, the president focused on issues such as health care. He said a "Grand Canyon of philosophy" separated him from Mr. Clinton on health care reform.

Mr. Bush's plan would seek to make private health insurance available to all Americans through tax credits and deductions worth up to \$3,750 for a family annually.

Mr. Clinton would require employees to provide health insurance benefits or help support a government programme to cover non-insured citizens.

Mr. Bush, who never mentioned Mr. Clinton by name, said his opponent's proposal would subject 52 million people to a new government bureaucracy, while his plan would help 90 million Americans afford private insurance.

"In the dog days of summer, it's very easy to be attracted to the new candidate, the one who says the things that the polls says the people want to hear. But by the fall, the American people look more closely and they ask this question: 'Who do we trust to change America?' Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Bush's focus on the subject came in response to Mr. Clinton's discussion of health care during a visit to suburban La Grange, Illinois, two weeks ago.

"It's going to be a big issue and there are some really significant differences between the president's plan and Mr. Clinton's plan," Bush campaign spokesman Tony Mitchell said.

Mr. Clinton responded to Bush's criticism Sunday, saying "once again, the administration is trying to raise fears instead of solve problems."

"... This administration and the one before it have presided over the biggest explosion of health care costs in the history of this country ... they ought to come up with their own plan, which they haven't done because they don't want to take on the vested interests in the health care debate."

Illinois is a political bellwether state, having gone for the winner in all but two presidential contests for 100 years.

Mr. Bush narrowly carried the state in 1988, winning 51 per cent of the vote to 49 per cent for Democratic rival Michael Dukakis. But Mr. Bush's chances are complicated this year by the presence on the ballot of Democratic Senate candidate Carol Mosley Braun on the Democratic ticket.

Mr. Braun has a shot at becoming the first black woman senator, a prospect likely to increase the turnout of normally pro-Democratic black voters and possibly give Mr. Clinton an edge.

"It's a very important state. We've got a very important Senate race, and we believe that race really is a good example of what the American people are going to be facing this year — a decision on the basic philosophy of government," White House Chief of Staff Sam Skinner told reporters.

As Mr. Bush spoke, a handful of anti-abortion activists, dismayed by the president's support of the pro-choice Williamson, picketed the hotel where the event was held.

"Bush betrays babies" and "Judas George" said signs waved by two of the protesters.

Mr. Bush later travelled to suburban Elk Grove to drum up support in the Nov. 3 elections at an old-fashioned Sunday picnic, which was dampened by rain. Health care reform was to be his theme there also.

## Azerbaijan, Turkey return to Karabakh peace talks

ROME (R) — The complete collapse of international talks aimed at ending fighting in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh was averted at the last minute when Azerbaijan and Turkey decided to return to the negotiating table.

The two delegations stormed out of the 11-nation talks Sunday but later agreed to shelve a dispute with the meeting's Italian presidency which delegates said could have arisen from a translation error.

But time was rapidly running out for an accord which would allow a full peace conference to be convened in the Belarussian capital of Minsk under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

An Azeri statement stressed that Nagorno-Karabakh was part of Azerbaijan and that the enclave's Armenians were Azeri citizens. The predominantly Armenian territory has been ruled by Turkish-speaking Azeris since 1923.

Fighting broke out between the two communities in 1988 and at least 2,000 people have been killed. The Azeri army has now launched a major offensive aimed at recapturing positions lost to Armenians in May.

The official mediator, Italy's Mario Raffaelli, insisted his country had not broken the rules of the meeting by inviting representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenians to speak.

But Azerbaijan remained suspicious and warned that it reserved the right to quit the talks if the Italians gave it cause to think that any form of recognition was being granted to the Armenian-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Delegates said the statement issued by chief Azeri negotiator Nadir Mekhtiev repeating charges that Italy had in effect put the enclave's Armenian leadership on the same footing as the 11 nations attending the talks.

But they said Mr. Raffaelli angrily insisted that Azerbaijan should not repeat such accusations.

Other delegates said they believed there had been a genuine misunderstanding, probably due to a translation error over the kind of meeting which had been summoned when the Armenians were given their say.

Mr. Raffaelli, who is also mediating in efforts to end Mozambique's civil war, has set a deadline of Tuesday night for the Rome peace talks to reach a conclusion.

The enclave's Armenians, who proclaimed its independence last year but have still to win any form of international recognition, are pressing for an agreement in Rome on their status at a full peace conference.

Armenian sources said that once that had been settled they would be prepared to discuss a ceasefire.

Meanwhile, Azeri and Armenian forces clashed in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh Sunday.

A spokesman for the Azeri Defence Ministry said Azeri soldiers were fighting to retake villages in the enclave. Radio Russia quoted the ministry as saying at least 24 people had died since Saturday.

The Pro-Armenia News Agency said Armenian forces were surrounding Marakert, the biggest town in the north of the mountainous enclave and scene of numerous clashes.

But the Armenians had not yet moved in on the town because they hoped the Azeri defenders would leave without a bloodshed.

Over 2,000 people have died in four years of fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh, which is administered by Azerbaijan but populated largely by Armenians.



A new unit of Azerbaijani paratroopers being put through marching drill as clashes between Azeri forces and Armenians continue in Nagorno-Karabakh

## Fighting eases in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb artillerymen shelled suburbs and parts of Sarajevo's old town during the night but fighting was light compared with recent days, journalists in the Bosnian capital said Monday.

Six tank rounds hit the Hotel Bristol in the city centre, according to Bosnian military sources. Muslim sources said Serbian aircraft dropped three cluster bombs on the Muslim district of Igman late Sunday but the report could not be independently confirmed.

The reduction in fighting followed four days of battles between Muslims and Serbs who have blockaded Sarajevo since April.

Heavy fighting has been reported from southern areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Muslims and Croats launched joint attacks on Serbian positions.

Meanwhile, an attempt to evacuate orphans from Serb-besieged Sarajevo, capital of the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, miscarried when two of the infants were shot dead by snipers.

A.U.N. spokesman later condemned the decision to try to take the orphans out by road as almost "criminally negligent."

Aid workers, meanwhile, said they believed thousands of Muslims and Croats had been imprisoned, tortured or executed in inaccessible concentration camps in the Serb-controlled north of war-torn Bosnia.

The unprotected bus carrying 50 infants from a Sarajevo orphanage to refuge in Germany came under fire Sunday on "sniper alley," an exposed boulevard terrorised by gunmen shooting from wrecked high-rise buildings.

"He won't let any more children go after this," orphanage director Vera Zoric said after the killings.

U.N. spokesman Mik Magnusson, in an interview on British Broadcasting Corporation television, condemned the planning of the evacuation.

"To me it borders on being criminally negligent to take children, or anyone else for that matter, into a known war zone at a time when the fighting starts every day," he said.

Orphanage workers also said Serb gunmen stopped the bus at checkpoint and demanded that nine Serb children get out rather than allow them to be evacuated. Officials in Germany said the

other children were expected to arrive Monday, a day later than originally planned.

Sporadic fighting continued in Sarajevo Sunday evening, with artillery shells landing in the city centre. Shrapnel from an exploding mortar bomb earlier crashed into U.N. headquarters, but there were no casualties.

The Bosnian Serb military command protested to U.N. forces, occupying the Marshal Tito Barracks in the city, that Muslim artillery gunners were firing from positions next to the base, apparently using it as a shield.

If the United Nations could not prevent Muslim forces attacking it should consider moving out of the barracks "because the Serb side will feel compelled to return fire," the Serbian News Agency quoted the protest as saying.

At least 8,000 people, including several hundred civilians in Sarajevo, have been killed since Bosnia's Serb minority rebelled four months ago against the declaration of independence by the republic's Muslims and Croats.

Aid workers in northern Bosnia, heartland of the self-declared Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, told Reuters they believed thousands of Muslims and Croats had been imprisoned in concentration camps there since April.

"Terrible, terrible things are going on," said a Catholic aid worker, asking not to be identified. "These are real concentration camps. People are starving and being killed."

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said the West should arm Muslims against the Serbs, who outgun them.

"I ask myself sometimes, 'does Europe know what is going on here?'" he said. "Do those responsible in Europe really know about concentration camps, about the mass killings?"

Croatia, the former Yugoslav republic bordering Bosnia, held its first elections as an independent state Sunday.

Croatian Radio said the eastern town of Slavonki Brod, on the border with Bosnia, came under Serbian artillery fire on Sunday but voting went ahead.

Milan Panic, newly-appointed prime minister of the rump Yugoslav state comprising Serbia and Montenegro, visited Romania and Bulgaria to canvas views for a Balkan conference on regional conflicts.

## Russia, Ukraine to join command of Black Sea Fleet

MUKHALATKA, Ukraine (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk agreed Monday to put the Black Sea Fleet under their joint command until the end of 1995.

Mr. Kravchuk and Mr. Yeltsin, speaking at a news conference in this sunny Black Sea resort, said the command of the fleet would be replaced by new officers, appointed by the two presidents.

The wrangling over the Black Sea Fleet has been a major source of tension between Russia and Ukraine, the two most powerful members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) which succeeded the Soviet Union.

The dispute over final control of the roughly 300 ships and naval facilities on the Black Sea would be resolved during the three-year period, according to the agreement the presidents signed. It was to be published later.

"This will calm the people of Ukraine and Russia," Mr. Kravchuk said to journalists standing outside the Dacha where the leaders met.

Igor Kasatonov, the commander of the big fleet, had said earlier that it would be impossible to divide it up at a single stroke. "There has to be a transition period of two to four years," he said.

Mr. Kravchuk ruled out giving up any of the land facilities at Sevastopol, the fleet's home port. But he left open the possibility of renting to Russia the port's naval command buildings while Moscow upgrades its own ports on the Black Sea.

"If it's simply a question of renting it (to Russia), everything will depend on the quality of the documents and how much they correspond with Ukrainian law," Mr. Kravchuk said.

But he added that Ukraine would reject any Russian demands for ownership of the property, warning that he would break off talks if the Russian delegation pressed the issue.

## COLUMN

### Michael Jackson recovering from flu

LONDON (R) — Rock superstar Michael Jackson was recovering Sunday from the flu that caused him to cancel a London concert at the last minute, disappointing 72,000 fans. The 33-year-old singer's doctors said he could be performing again as soon as Wednesday. Crowds of anxious fans had spent the day outside Jackson's London hotel, hoping for news of the reclusive performer. Some screamed and wept when they heard he was on the mend. In a message from his sick bed, Jackson said: "It is the worst thing in the world for me to let my fans down. 'Your understanding and support is the greatest medicine any doctor could administer. I love you all.' Spokesman Bob Jones said the star was "devastated" at having to cancel Saturday's concert. Jackson had probably been laid low by a virus. "He has these flu-type symptoms," he said. Jackson's doctors said in a medical bulletin: "He looks much better today and will continue his rest... with his current rate of improvement we anticipate he will perform Wednesday." Jackson has five more dates on the British leg of his European tour. He is scheduled to play in Cardiff Wednesday. The sudden cancellation of Jackson's concert added a new twist to his visit to Britain. He has taken legal action against the tabloid Daily Mirror, which said plastic surgery had left his face "hideously disfigured". The Mirror immediately counter-sued for libel.

### Helicopter used in daring Dutch prison escape

AMSTERDAM (R) — A helicopter landed in the courtyard of a Dutch jail Sunday and snatched a 31-year-old prisoner from under the nose of the authorities. The aircraft with two men aboard touched down in Zwag Prison at 11.30 am. The convict leaped inside and was immediately whisked away, police in the northern town of Hoon said. The helicopter landed 60 kilometres away in the east of the country, and the prisoner and another man sped away in a French-registered car, leaving the pilot tied up nearby. A major air and land search has been launched. The convict, who has not been named, was serving a sentence for robbery with violence.

### Paratroopers scuffle in Moscow, Kiev and other cities

MOSCOW (AP) — Rowdy paratroopers scuffled with civilians and each other in several former Soviet cities while celebrating a holiday in their honour, news reports said. Stripped down to shorts and white-and-blue shirts, paratroopers plunged into the shallow ponds of Gorky Park in Moscow and small groups fought with each other at the entrance, Russian Television reported. Elsewhere in the Russian capital, paratroopers rampaged through a market in the southwestern part of the city, smashing watermelons and fruit and vegetable stands, television said. Most branches of the former Soviet Armed Forces have a day in their honour. The highly trained paratroopers are considered some of the rowdiest, Russian Television said. News reports said policemen consider paratroopers' day the most dangerous of the year. The paratroopers were arrested in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev after they tried to free several of their colleagues who were arrested after a scuffle with special police units patrolling the streets. Tear gas was used to disperse the paratroopers. Russian Television said disturbances related to paratrooper celebrations were reported in the Siberian city of Tyumen and other cities in Russia that were not identified.

### Newly weds defy state, double-bungee over the ocean

ATLANTIC CITY (AP) — Defying a state order, a bride and groom jumped bungee-jumped together from 170 feet (52 metres) over the Atlantic Ocean as hundreds of people jammed the boardwalk to watch. Timothy Ful Cher, in a black tuxedo, and Nony Tedjakusuma of Indonesia, wearing white wedding gown, took the plunge after riding Asian and African elephants out to the Steel Pier, a bungee jumping amusement centre. They took their vows and a crane hoisted them in a steel cage as Indian musicians played traditional wedding music and a drum roll. The couple waved, gave the thumbs up and jumped, holding each other tightly.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Opposition hopeful in Mexico election

DURANGO, Mexico (AP) — Mexico once again put its democratic reforms to the test while negotiators in Washington neared an agreement that would establish a common market linking the United States, Mexico and Canada. The conservative opposition National Action Party — fresh from victory in the border state of Chihuahua on July 12 — held high hopes of adding another governorship in Durango, just to the south. Elections for governor also were being held Sunday in four other states, while Baja California voters chose mayors and a state legislator. The early voters turnout was high for what appears to be a hotly contested race — in contrast with previous elections when the governing party candidates were shoo-ins and voter apathy was high. Several trucks carrying police armed with automatic weapons patrolled the streets. Polls closed at 6 p.m. (000 GMT Monday) without any reports of violence or confrontations. National Action, however, criticised the governing party for continuing its policy of offering mass breakfasts in poor neighbourhoods and then busing voters to the polls.

### 5 die in Alaska plane crash

DILLINGHAM, Alaska (AP) — The former head of Australia's largest retail chain and an official in Bill Clinton's campaign were among five people killed in a plane crash, officials said. A De Havilland Beaver floatplane owned by the Bristol Bay Lodge with seven people aboard crashed in a narrow mountain and burst into flames Thursday, officials said. Killed were C. Victor Raiser II, 52, national financial co-chairman of the Clinton For President campaign, and his son, R. Montgomery Raiser, 23. Both men were from Washington, D.C. Kenneth B. Myer, 70, of Sydney, and an Australian woman, who has not yet been identified, were also killed, said Al Tamagni, a dispatcher with the Alaska State Troopers. Mr. Myer was director of the merged Coles-Myer Ltd. conglomerate, Australia's largest retail chain and the world's 13th largest, from 1985-1989, company secretary Roger Thomas said in Sydney. Also killed was Alexander Scott, 22, of Washington, D.C., state trooper said. The pilot, John Downs, 42, Brunswick, Maine, and John Kew, 52, of Buffalo, New York, survived the crash, but were in critical condition in the burn unit of Providence Hospital in Anchorage Sunday.

### Gorbachev issues warning

MOSCOW (R) — The euphoria has evaporated and hope has yielded to widespread pessimism as the steamy days of August return to Moscow a year after tanks shook the city streets. The main target of the short-lived coup that shocked the world, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, warned in an interview published at the weekend that Russia's leaders would have to act quickly if they wanted to avoid being overthrown. Saying discontent was growing over rising prices and falling production, he told Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper: "I feel that people will not stand for it if all these questions are not cleared up within the next few weeks." Reflecting on the headline coup last August, 27-year-old Muscovite Alexander Semyonov said: "We were enthusiastic and naive then. (Russian President Boris) Yeltsin said democracy and a free market were there for the taking — just kick out the Communists. And we believed it. Now we face the reality: We knew nothing of either. The parliament and political parties are like a circus and the new businessmen remind me of swindlers."

### Satellite deployment goes awry

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — A European science satellite encountered guidance problems Sunday, hours after its deployment from the space shuttle, the U.S. space agency NASA said. Astronauts aboard the Atlantis shuttle said the \$426 million satellite appeared to pitch over shortly after its gas jets ignited at 8.30 a.m. EDT (1230 GMT) to boost it to its working altitude of 325 miles. The shuttle chased the European retrievable satellite, known as Eureka, in an effort to help ground controllers maintain contact with it but no rendezvous was planned. "ESA (the European Space Agency) is assessing the condition of their satellite through ground stations and the shuttle, at this point, is going on with the rest of its mission as planned," said Flight Director Phil Engelauf at mission control in Houston. The satellite's unusual behaviour "does not necessarily mean Eureka has major problems," Mr. Engelauf told a news conference. "The spacecraft otherwise appears to be very healthy."

### Mrs. Marcos returns home empty handed

HONG KONG (R) — Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos has returned to Manila empty-handed, but with a few extra pairs of shoes, after failing to find any of late husband Ferdinand's missing loot. Mrs. Marcos, 63, arrived in Hong Kong Tuesday on a hunt to find some of the \$5 billion of riches reportedly spirited away during 20 years of her husband's dictatorial rule. Manila has told Mrs. Marcos it is willing to drop some of the charges against her, which include corruption, currency violations and tax evasion, if she recovers all the assets. Speaking to reporters after being mobbed by Philippine workers in Hong Kong's central district, Mrs. Marcos blamed contacts of former President Corazon Aquino for blocking her search. "Unfortunately, due to the actions of the remnants of the Aquino government, we have not been able to meet all of the people we wished to, so we shall have to meet them in the succeeding months," she said. Aides said Mrs. Marcos met executives of most of the colony's major banks she had not gained access to any of the accounts she believes hold Marcos money.

## Tudjman takes early lead in Croatia's election

ZAGREB, Croatia (R) — President Franjo Tudjman took an early lead in presidential elections in Croatia, according to unofficial preliminary results announced early Monday.

Zlatko Crnic, president of the electoral commission, said Mr. Tudjman had received 57 per cent of the vote after 4.7 per cent of the ballot had been counted. Drazen Budisa of the Croatian Social-Liberal Party (HSL) was second with about 21 per cent.

The vote, the first in Croatia as an independent state, came after a year of war with Serbs in which Croatia lost about a quarter of its territory.

Mr. Tudjman, 70, and his Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) have ruled for the most part unchallenged since they ousted the Communists in elections in 1990.

Mr. Crnic said the HDZ led in parliamentary elections with 40.8 per cent of the vote while the HSL had 19.6 per cent. The far-right Croatian Party of Rights (HSP) had 6.7 per cent and the centrist Croatian People's Party (HNS) eight per cent.

Few Croats going into polling booths Sunday believed Mr. Tudjman would lose but many said the composition of the 120-seat parliament could break the HDZ's monopoly on power.

Special polling stations were set up for refugees from towns in Croatia in areas occupied by Serbs during the war and now under nominal U.N. control.

## Nepali troops search for remains of crash victims

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepali troops and police searched in thick fog and rain for the remains of 113 people aboard a Thai Airbus that crashed into a remote Himalayan mountain ridge and exploded.

"The chances of finding any survivors are nil," a senior army officer said.

Officials said about 100 policemen and troops were combing a ridge that the Thai Airways Airbus 310-300 hit at about 11,500 feet (3,500 metres) for the remains of the passengers and crew. The plane crashed Friday as it tried to land in torrential rain at Kathmandu Airport.

"It has to be a very methodical search. The debris is scattered around a two-mile radius from the point of impact," said Major General K.N.S. Thapa, in charge of the search.

Soldiers were lowering themselves by ropes down the mountainside to search crevices and ledges, a task made more difficult because visibility was only about five metres (16 feet) Gen. Thapa told Reuters.

"The pilot had almost 20 tonnes of fuel remaining. It was a fireball immediately after it impacted," he said.

The wreckage of the Airbus was scattered in small pieces across a wide area of harsh terrain some 40 kilometres north of Kathmandu, a hard day's walk from the nearest road.

Low cloud and rain prevented airline investigators heading for

the area to seek the flight recorder from the plane, which twice reported unspecified technical problems before disappearing from radar screens at around 0700 GMT Friday.

The first teams to reach the site reported finding the charred torso of at least two bodies. Thai Airways officials said an international team of forensic experts was due in Kathmandu later Sunday to help to identify the victims.

A senior home (interior) affairs official, S.P. Acharya, said the plane crashed lakes in the Gosainkund Range, a sacred pilgrimage spot to Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction.

"They have found quite a number of pieces of bodies," Mr. Acharya said. "But only one whole body has been found so far."

He said a Puma helicopter carrying the remains of those bodies found so far was unable to fly out of a base camp set up some 3,000 feet (915 metres) below the crash site because of the poor weather.

### Chinese plane hit runway wall

Meanwhile, New China News Agency (NCNA) said Sunday the Chinese airliner which crashed Friday killing at least 106 people, veered off the runway and hit a retaining wall before shattering and catching fire.

The Russian-built YAK-41 was flying from the southern city of

Nanjing in Jiangsu province to the coastal city of Xiamen. It was the worst Chinese air crash reported since 1990.

NCNA, quoting eyewitnesses at the scene, said the plane "went off course after it started to gain speed on the runway and bumped against the airport's two metre high protection wall."

Su Xiaoxun, a spokesman for the Jiangsu Provincial Foreign Affairs Office, said investigators had located the "black box" containing the plane's flight records but it was not yet opened.

"There are many technical questions here. It is hard to estimate when it may be opened," he said by telephone.

Five Hong Kong residents and two Taiwanese were among the 106 people who died, officials reached by telephone said.

Two babies less than a year old were among the 20 passengers and crew who survived the crash, the Peking-funded China News Service said. One of the infants was handed to rescue workers through a hole in the plane's fuselage by an injured woman, the news service added. The baby's mother died in the crash.

Ten-month old Wu Danni received only slight bruises on her arm and forehead, NCNA said.

"But she kept crying all the time as could not get over the shock," the agency said.

At least 93 people were killed immediately when the plane burst into flames about 600 metres